

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

ULTIMATE FLIGHT

HOUSER • SILVA • WONG • ROSENBERG



001

MARVEL

MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

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ULTIMATE FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL, *MAXIMUM RIDE: SCHOOL'S OUT FOREVER*, BY JAMES PATTERSON

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HOPE IS A TRICKY THING. IT CAN DRIVE YOU FORWARD. GIVE YOU PURPOSE.

BUT HOPE CAN ALSO MAKE YOU FORGET A LIFETIME OF LESSONS. CONVINCE YOU THAT, UNLIKE EVERY SINGLE OTHER MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE, THINGS MIGHT JUST WORK OUT THIS TIME AROUND.

WE LET HOPE LIE TO US. AND THIS IS WHERE WE ENDED UP. WITH FANG FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

IF I LOSE HIM...

30 MINUTES AGO,
OVER WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE'RE FREAKS.
HYBRID BIRD-KIDS.
AND WE'VE SPENT
OUR LIVES RUNNING
FROM EVEN BIGGER
MONSTERS.

BUT NOW WE ARE FINALLY FREE
OF THE SCHOOL, THE LABORATORY
AND TORTURE CHAMBER THAT
MADE US INTO WHAT WE ARE.

DURING OUR ESCAPE,
WE'D FOUND A FILE
THAT HAD INFORMATION
ON OUR BIRTH PARENTS.

DO YOU
REALLY THINK
THEY'LL BE THERE?
WILL THEY LIKE US?
WHAT IF THEY'RE
SCARED OF US?

Nudge

Icy

THEY'LL
BE LITTERLY
TERRIFIED TO
LEARN YOU
DON'T HAVE
AN OFF-
SWITCH.

AND WE WERE
DETERMINED TO
FIND THEM.

DO YOU THINK
THEY'LL REALLY WANT
US? THAT FILE SAID
THEY SOLD US...

AnceL

Gazzu

IF THEY
DON'T WANT
US, THEN WE
DON'T NEED
THEM.

WELL, THE
REST OF
THE FLOCK'S
PARENTS.
THERE WAS
NO MENTION
OF MINE.

Max

MAYBE THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE
WE MISSED IN THERE ABOUT YOUR
PARENTS. ANOTHER FILE...

THE
IMPORTANT THING IS
ALL OF US GOT OUT.

Fang

POINT IS, WE
WEREN'T HIDING
ANYMORE. WE
WERE MOVING
TOWARDS
A NEW LIFE.



LIKE THAT
WAS EVER
A REAL
OPTION
FOR ANY
OF US.

GUYS!!!

ERASERS. OUR NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE. HUNTERS WITH TEETH AND CLAWS. BRED BY THE SCHOOL AS THEIR SECURITY FORCE.

AND NOW THEY HAVE WINGS?!

THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE WITH ME, HUH, MAX?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT!

THE LAST TIME I SAW ARI, I SNAPPED HIS NECK. HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME ANY CHOICE.

IT WAS A RELIEF TO FIND OUT I WASN'T A MURDERER. AND NOT JUST BECAUSE THERE'S A CHANCE ARI'S MY BROTHER.

WAP

MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT BETTER FOR US IF I WERE, THOUGH.

WOW, ERASERS ARE AWFUL AT FLYING.

SERIOUSLY! TRY A LIFETIME OF PRACTICE, GUYS.

AND MAYBE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SMELL, TOO.

I THINK THE MAD SCIENTISTS ARE LETTING THEIR STANDARDS SLIP.

SHODDY WORKMANSHIP. WHO PLITS WINGS ON A FRID--

SHNK
GAH!

NO...

FANG!

KABOOM

NEXT
TIME IT'LL BE
YOUR TURN,
MAX!

ARI. ONCE HE WAS
JUST A SWEET LITTLE KID
FOLLOWING HIS FATHER JEB
AROUND THE SCHOOL.

NOW HE'S A MONSTER. JEB BETRAYED
HIM. BETRAYED ALL OF US. WORKING
FOR THE SCHOOL ALL ALONG.

MAX!
FANG!

I'LL MAKE HIM PAY
FOR THE BLOOD
ON HIS HANDS.

IS HE
OKAY?!

I
DON'T...
WE NEED
HELP!

WE'VE ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF OURSELVES. BUT TOUGH AS WE ARE, FAST AS WE HEAL, WE'RE NOT INVINCIBLE.

I KNOW BEING HERE IS A MISTAKE. BUT I CAN'T LET FANG DIE.

I HAVE ONE JOB AS LEADER. PROTECT MY FLOCK. SOMETIMES, THERE ARE NO GOOD OPTIONS.

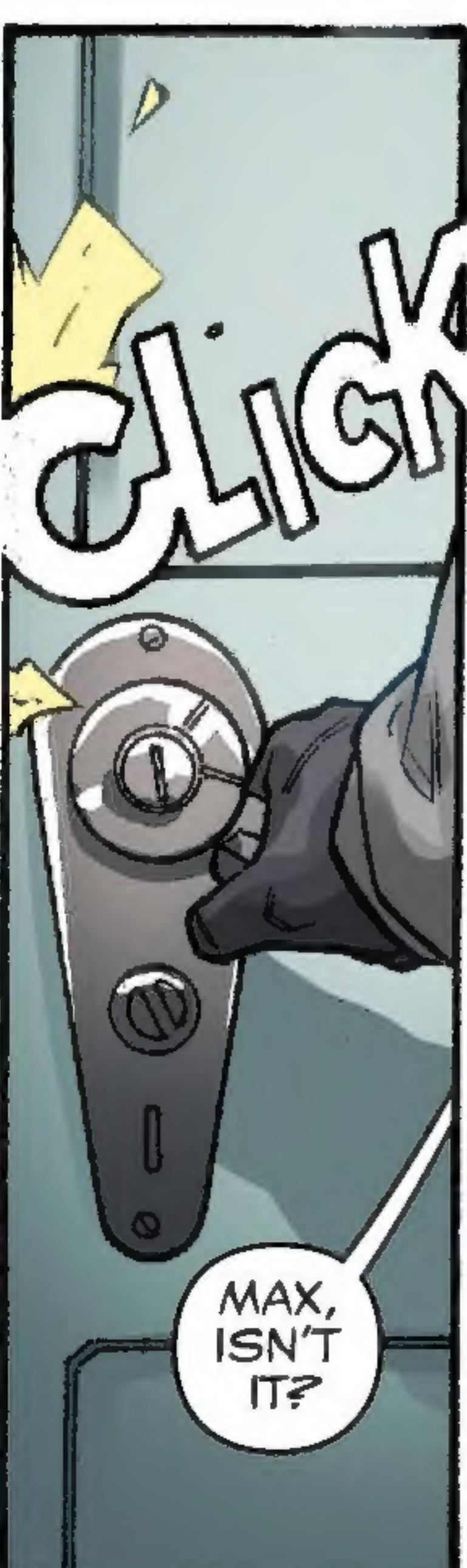
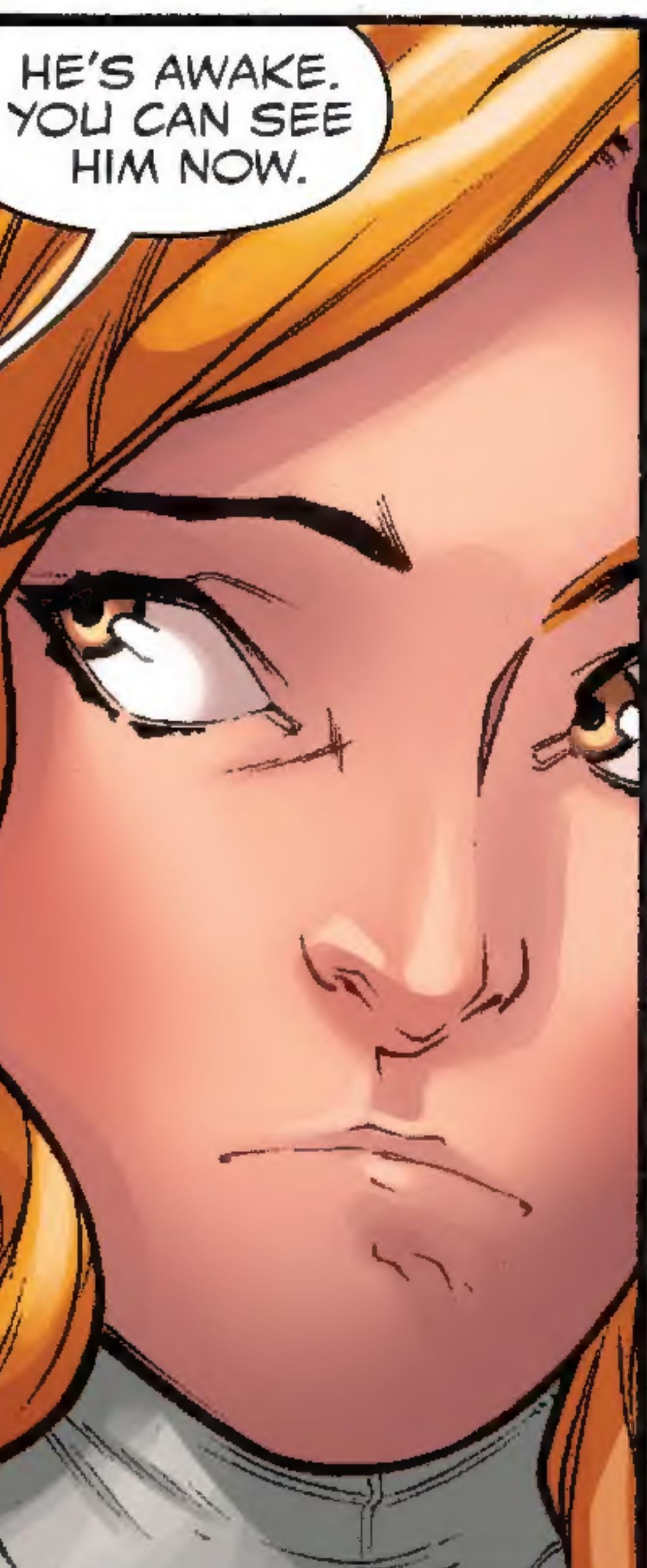
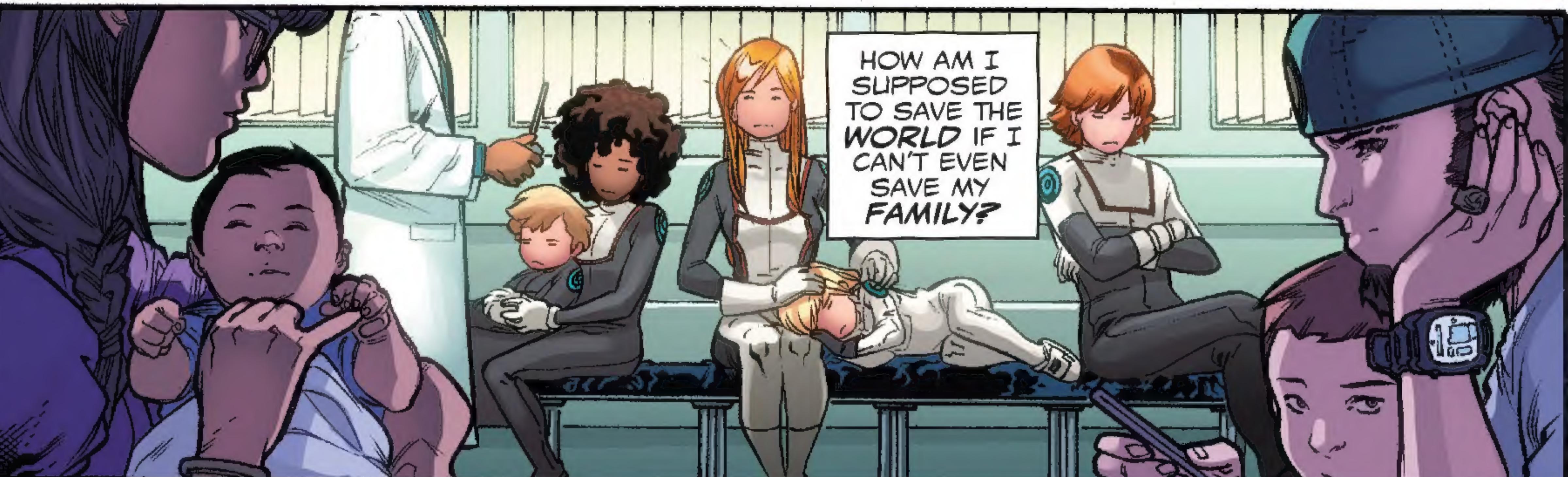
HE'S GONNA BE OKAY, RIGHT?

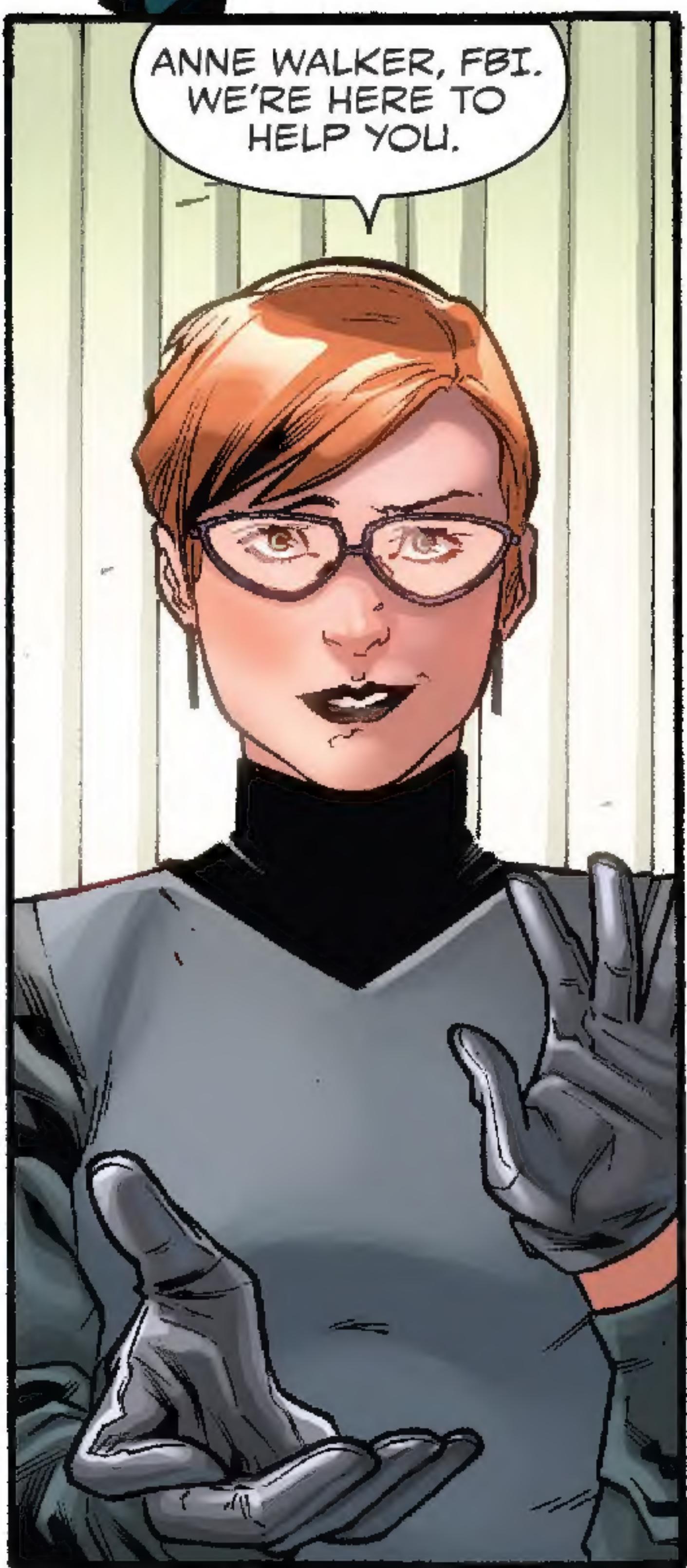
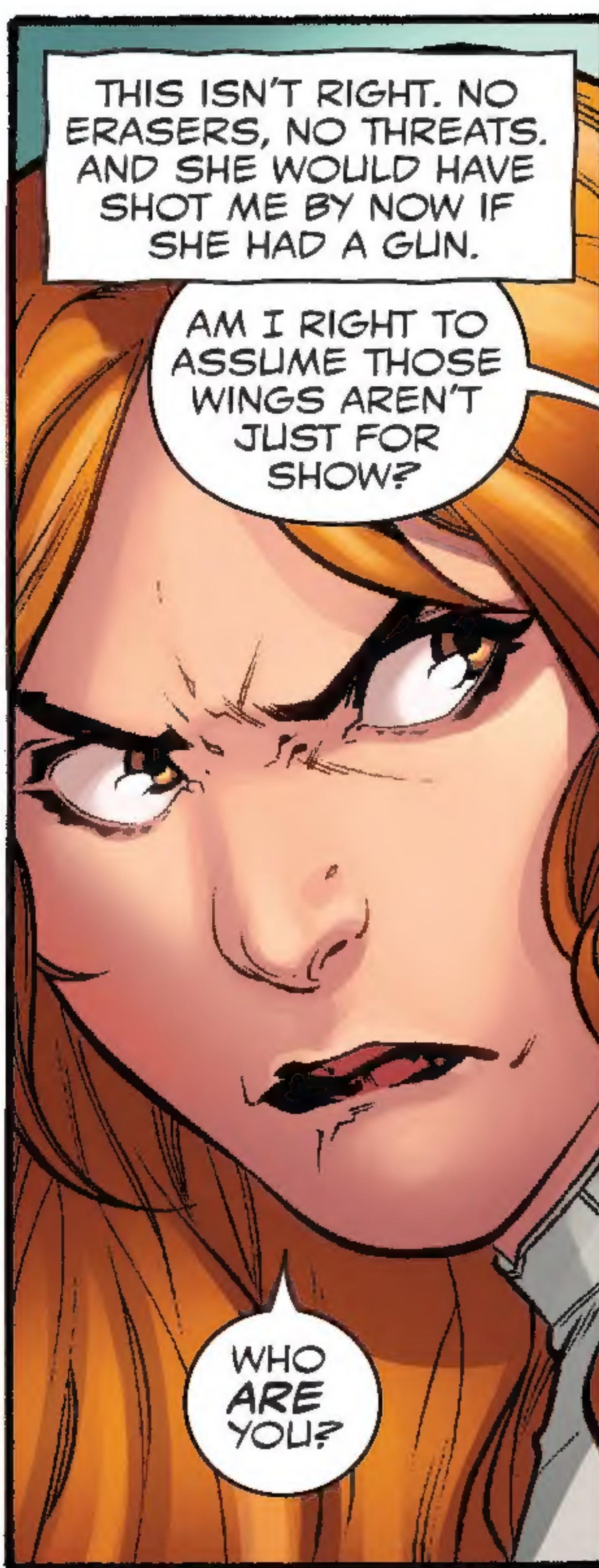
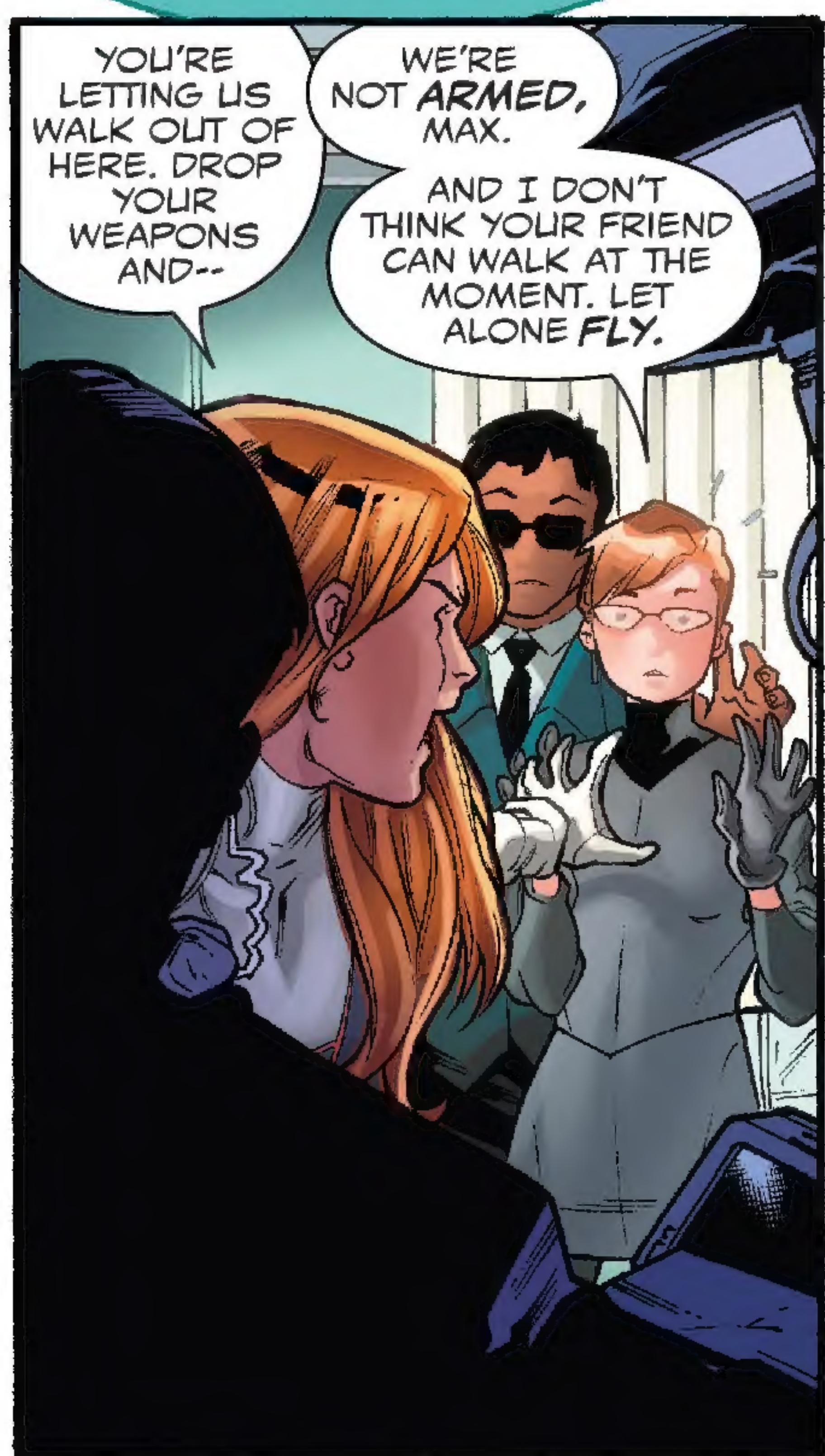
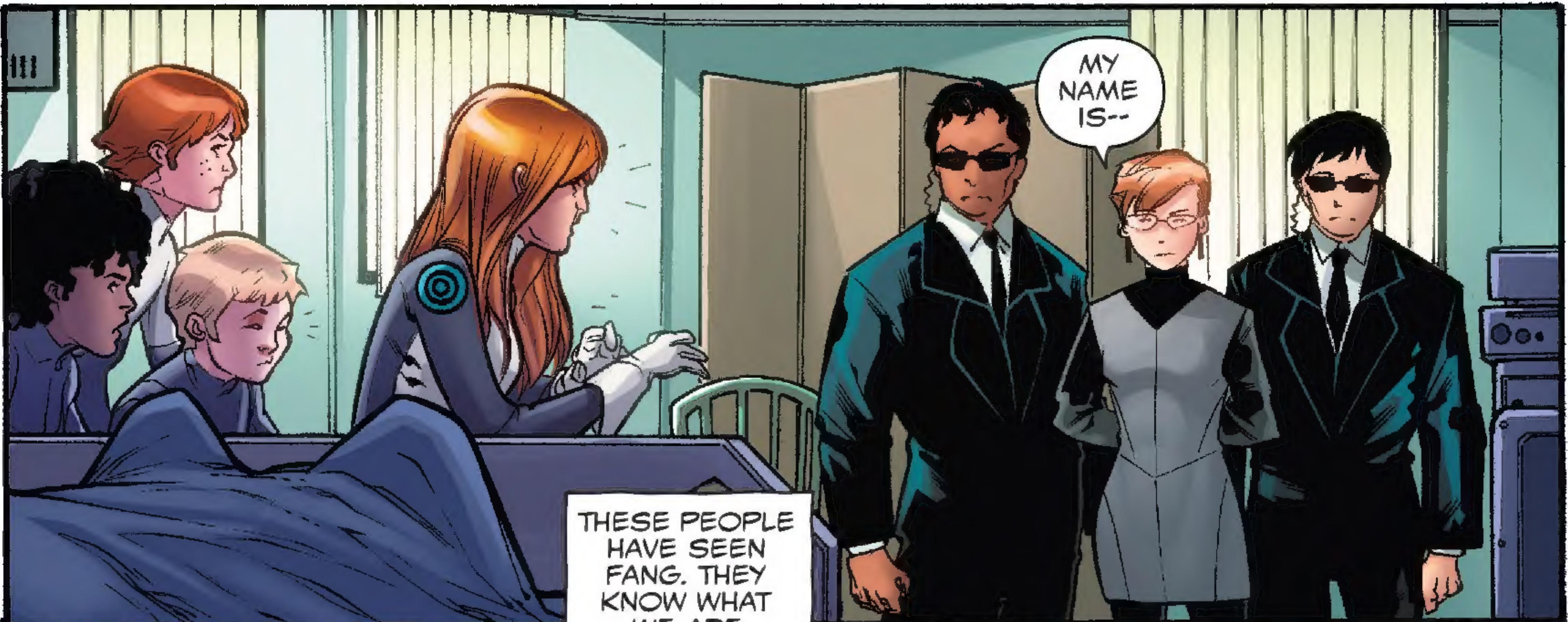
WHAT DID THE DOCTORS SAY, MAX?

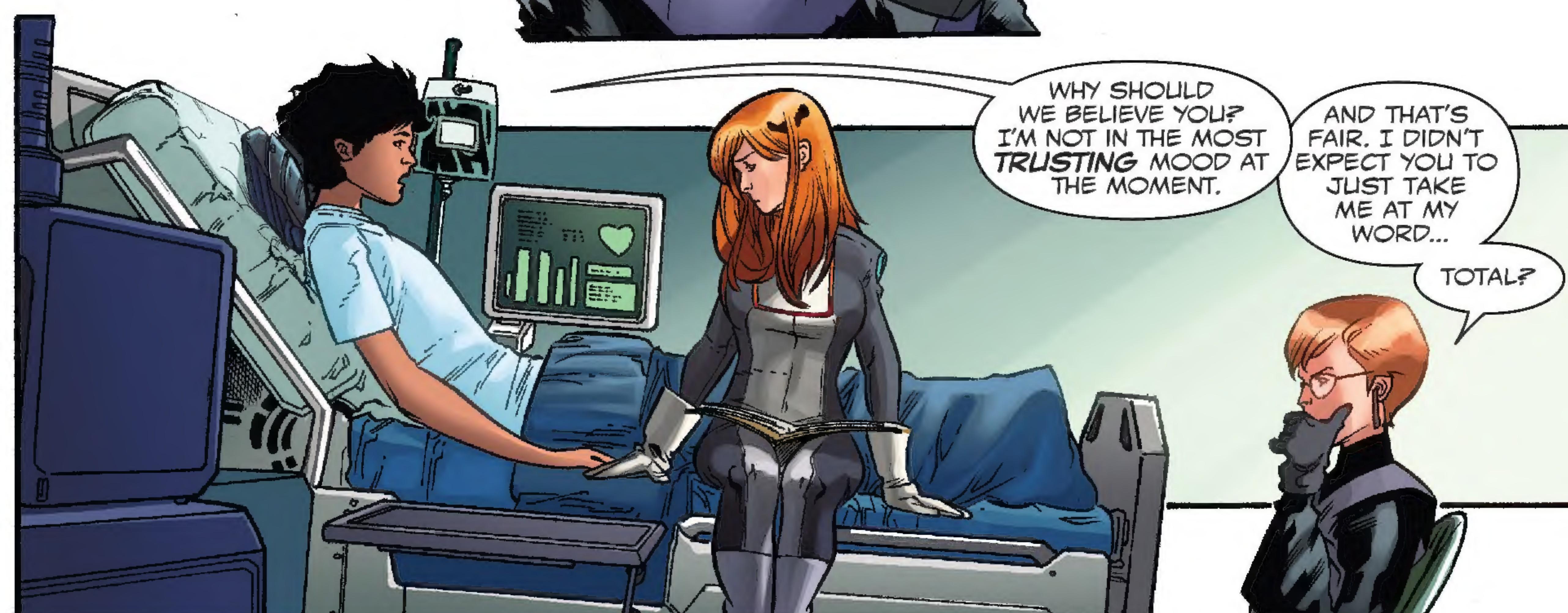
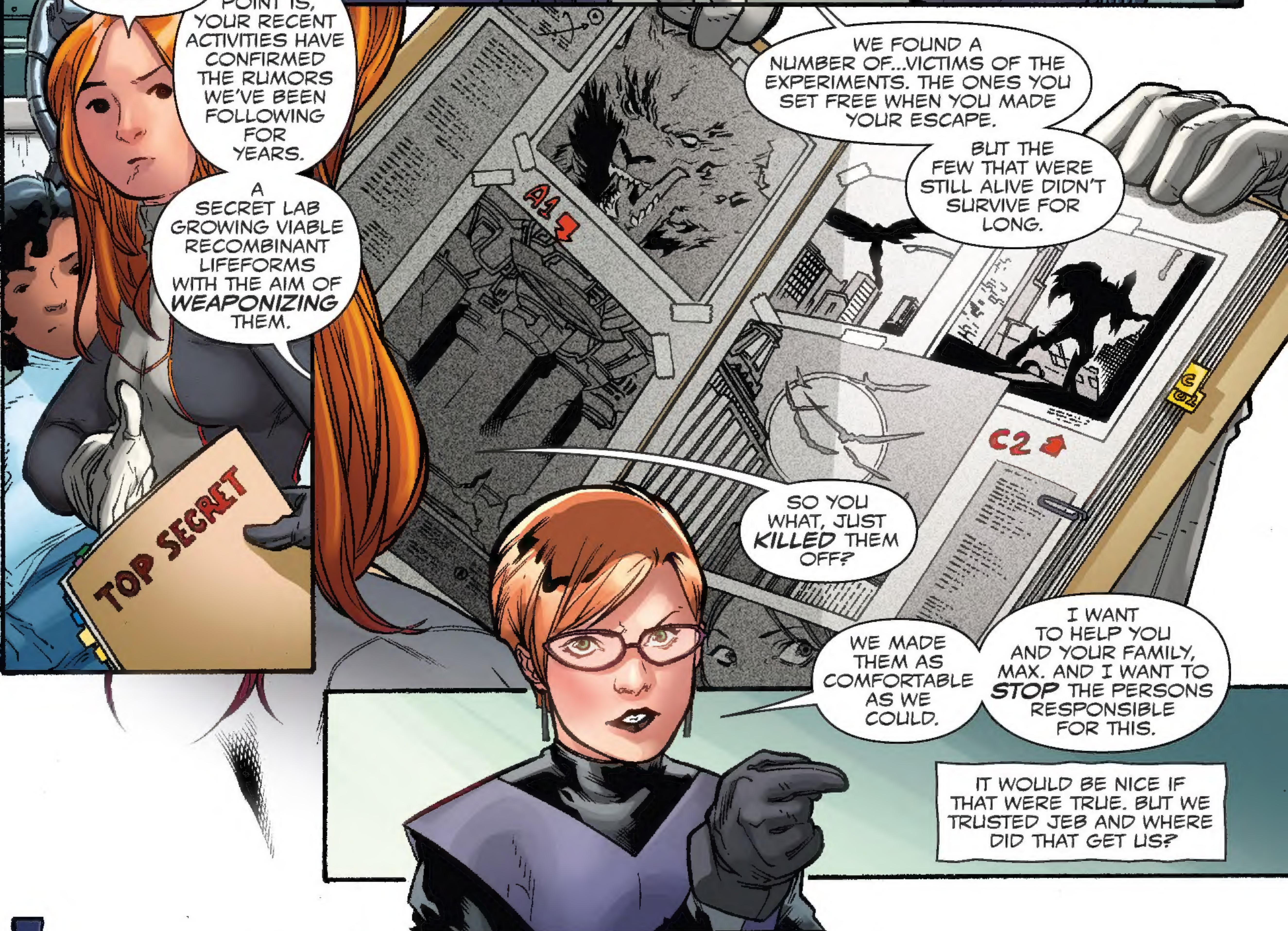
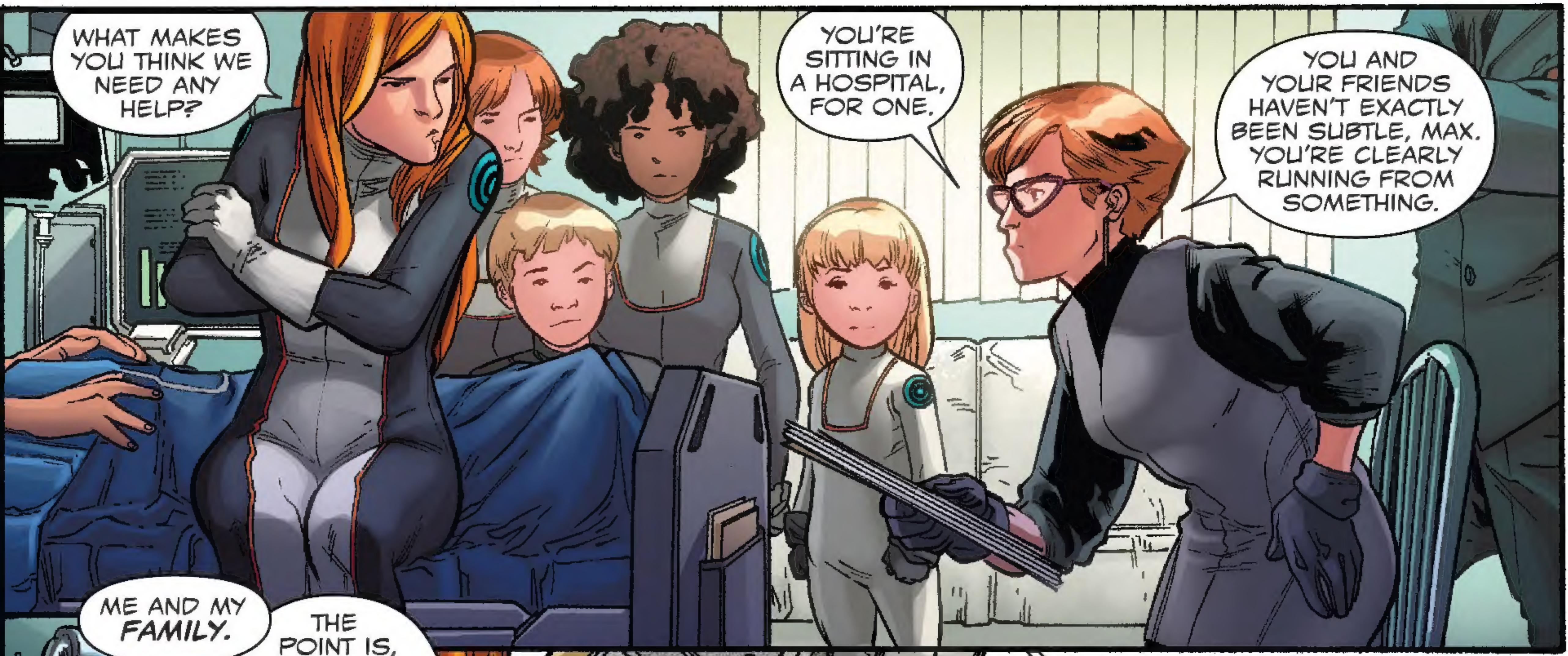
AT LEAST THE VOICE IN MY HEAD IS KEEPING QUIET. FOR NOW.

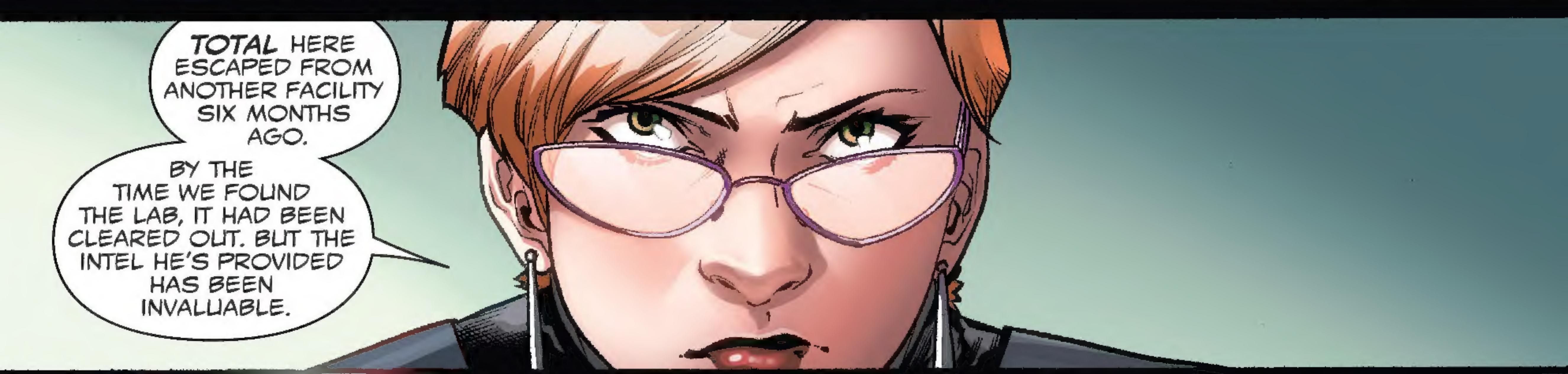
IT SHOWED UP RECENTLY, SPOLTING ADVICE AND OTHER NONSENSE. TELLING ME HOW I'M MEANT TO SAVE THE WORLD.

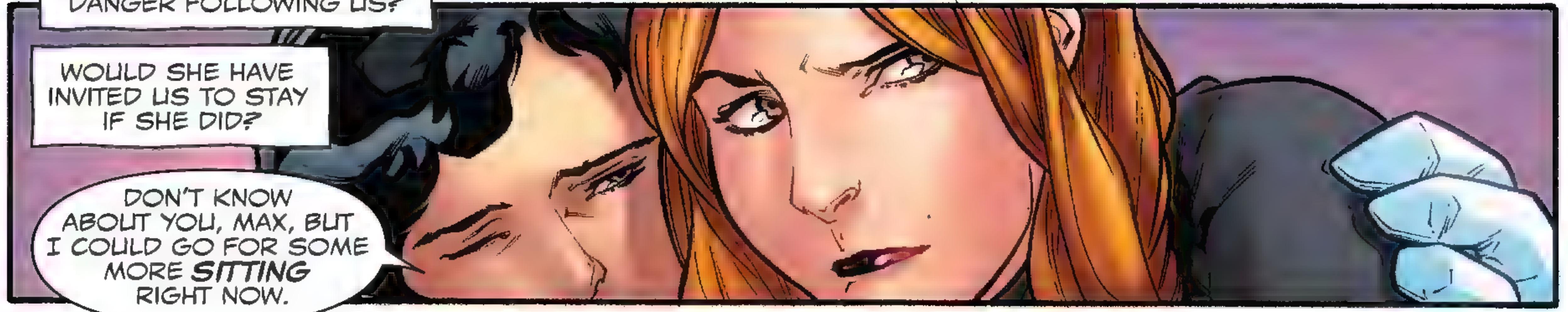
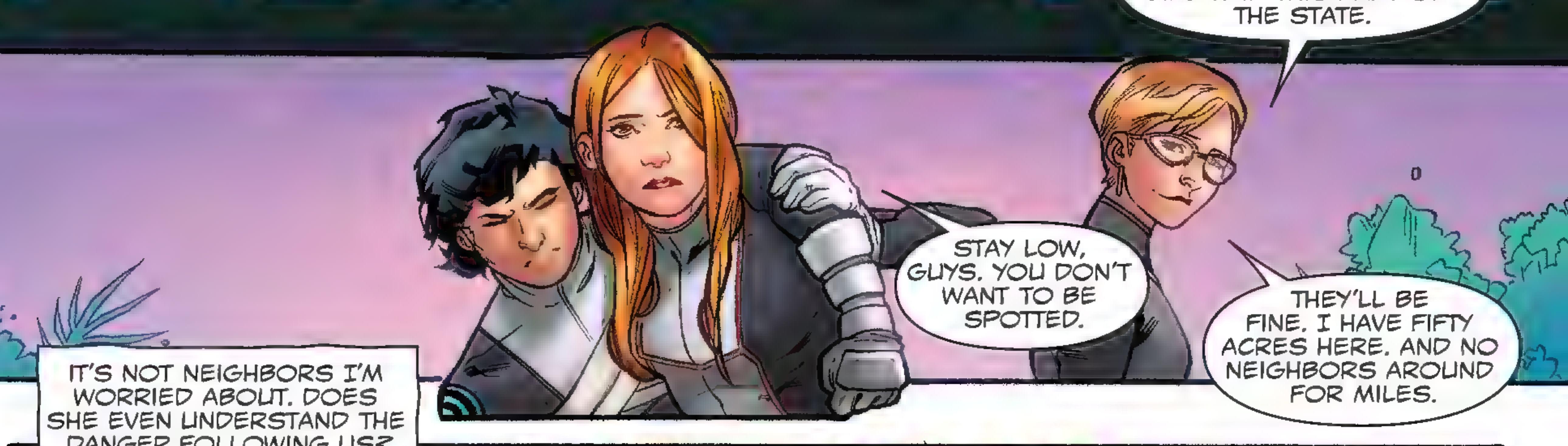
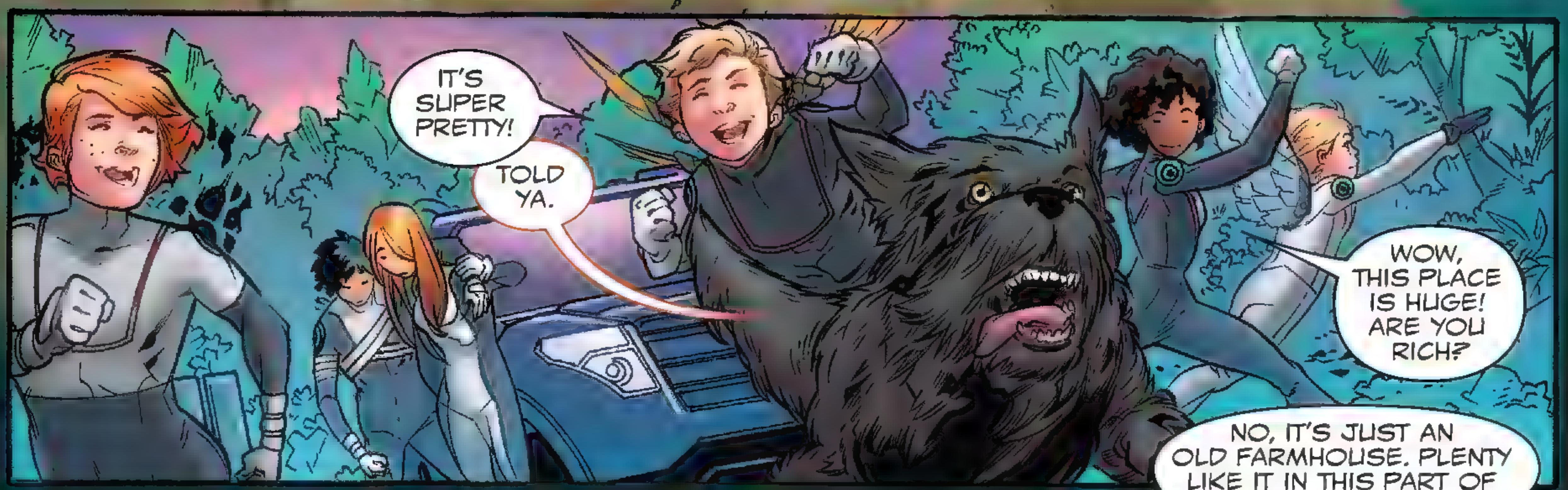
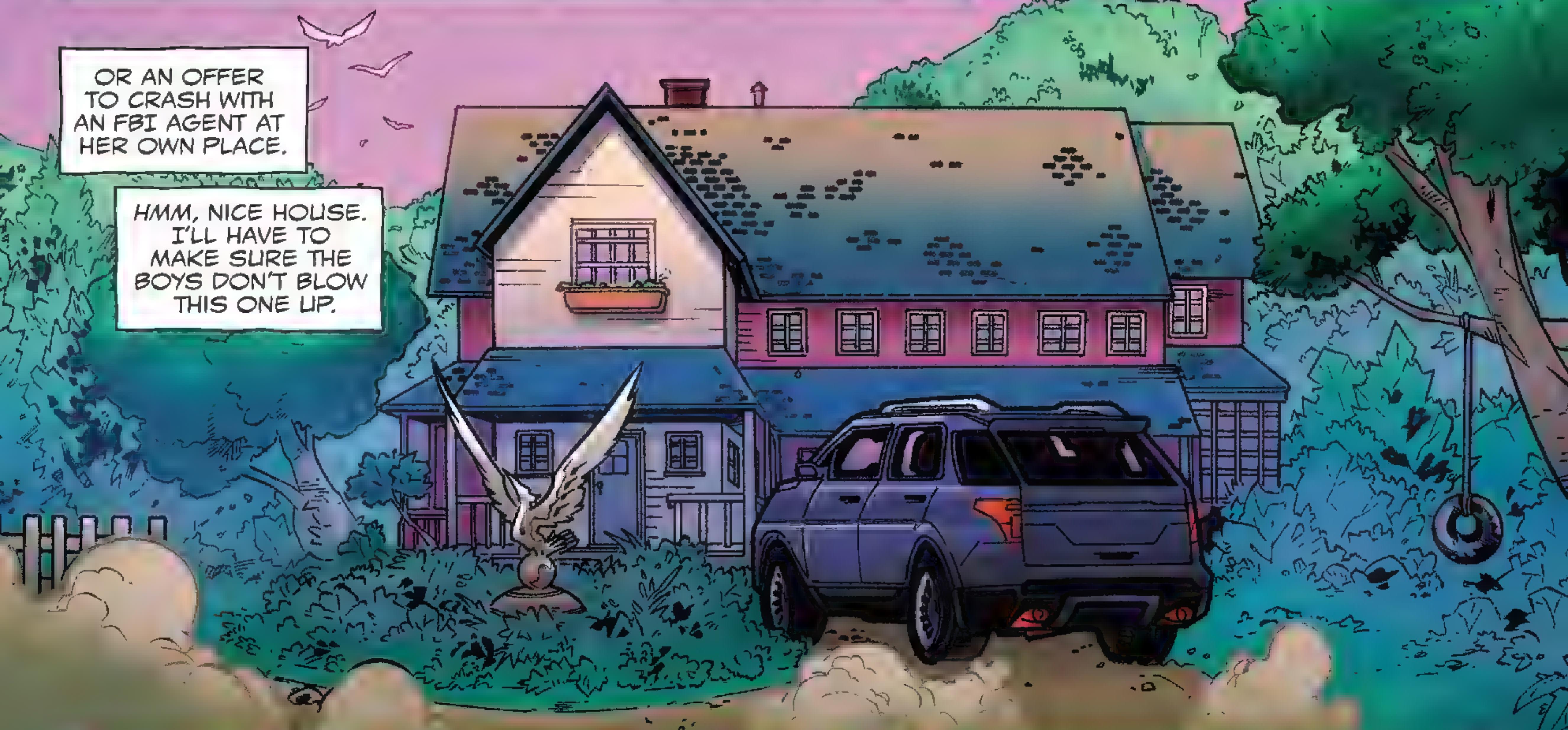
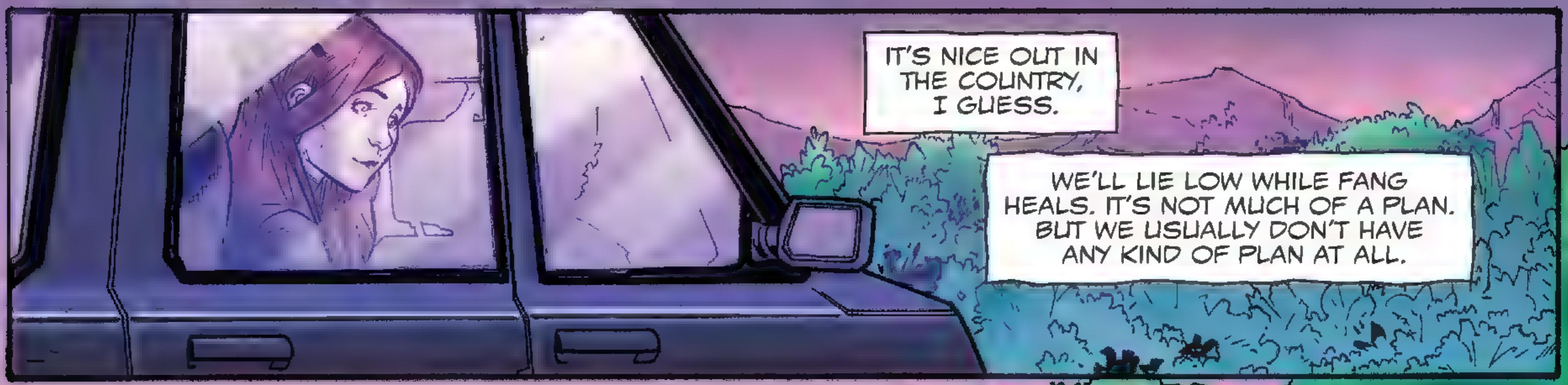
I'LL KILL HIM IF HE ISN'T.











KNOWING THESE GUYS, THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR ESCAPE ROUTES IN BETWEEN THE SCENERY.

A PLACE LIKE THIS, TOO EASY FOR IT TO BECOME A TRAP. IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

WOW, IT'S EVEN BIGGER ON THE INSIDE!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE ARE ENOUGH BEDROOMS FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE THEIR OWN.

I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE. HAD PEOPLE WHO TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS HURT. TREATED ME LIKE FAMILY.

I STILL THINK ABOUT DR. MARTINEZ AND ELLA SOMETIMES. HOW MUCH I WANTED TO STAY.

BUT THAT WAS NEVER A REAL OPTION. JUST A DREAM OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.

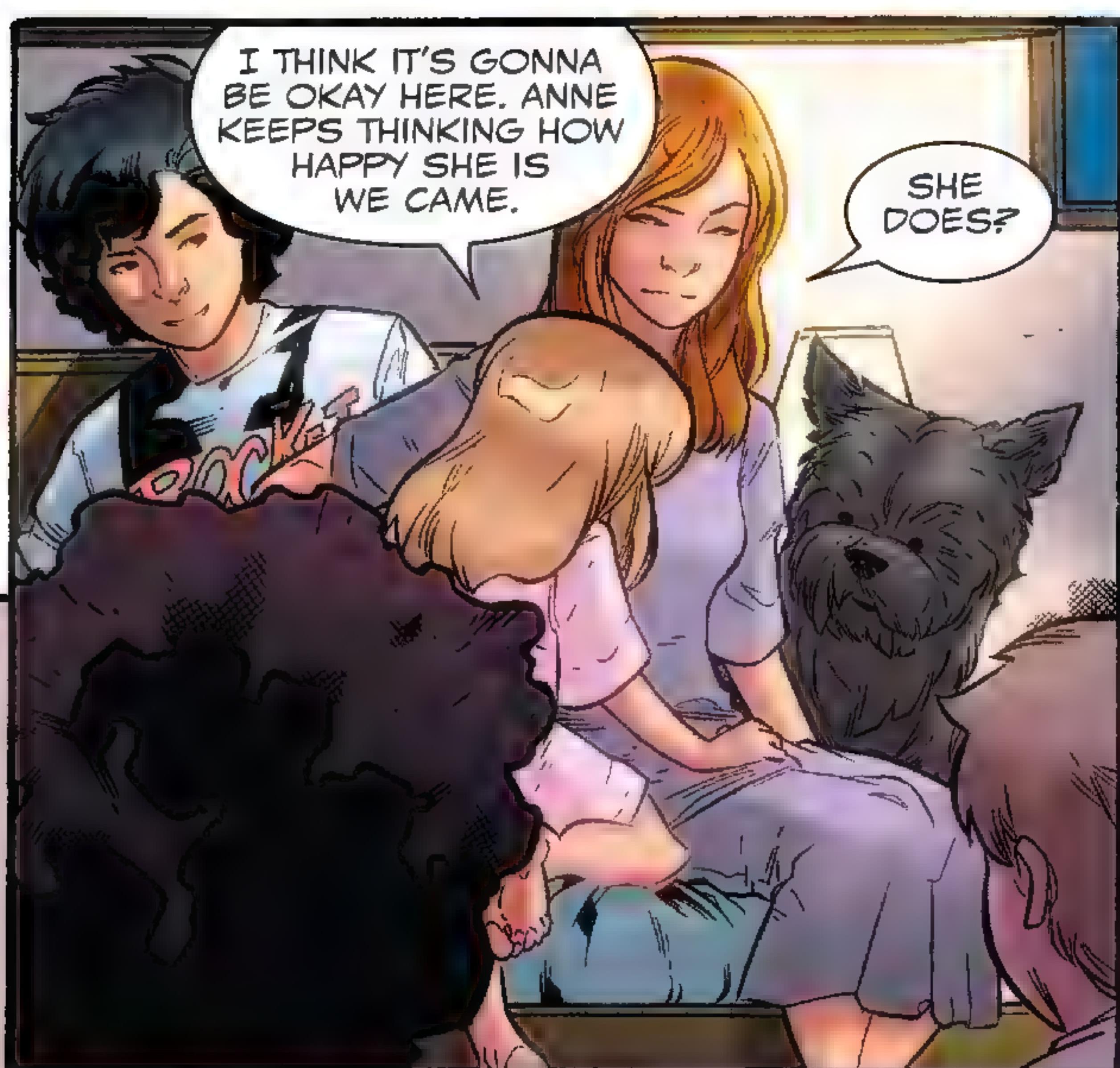
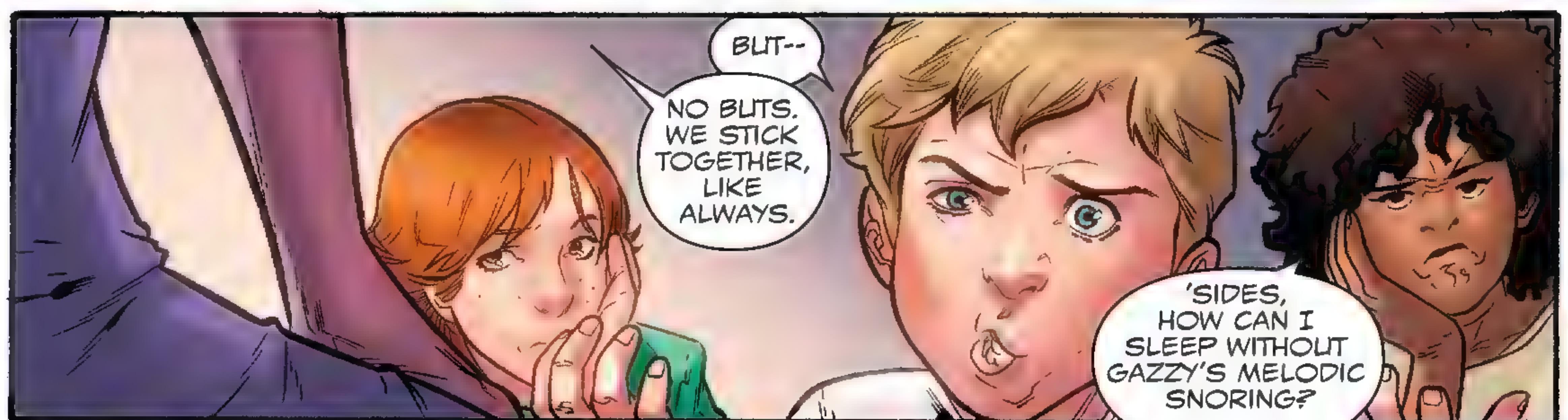
WOW...

IS THIS REALLY ALL FOR US?

THE DOCTORS INFORMED ME OF YOUR BROTHER'S UNUSUAL METABOLIC REQUIREMENTS. I GUessed THE REST OF YOU WOULD HAVE SIMILAR NEEDS.

WE NEVER HAVE THIS MUCH FOOD TO EAT!

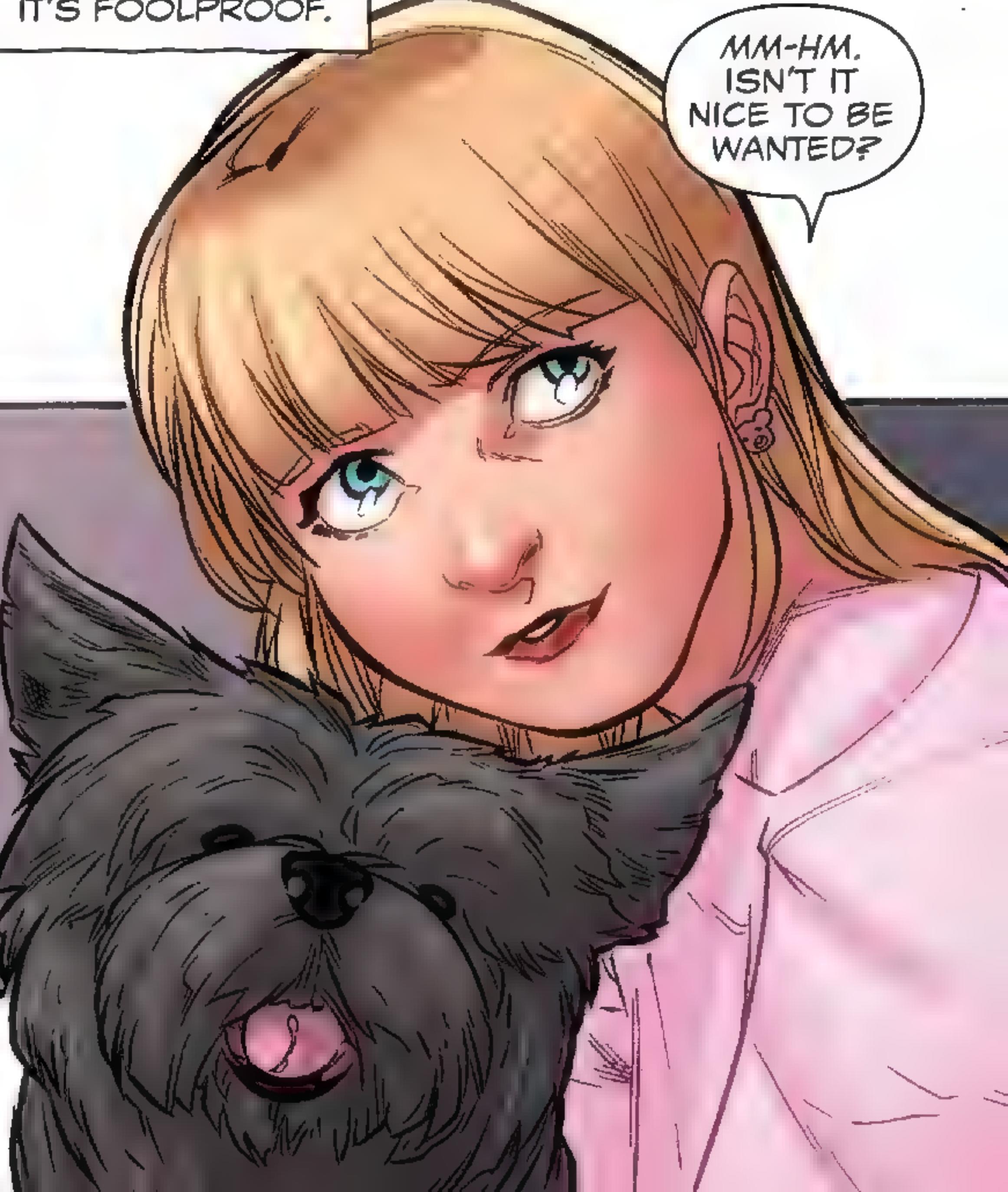
A LIFE I CAN'T HAVE. AND THE ONE THAT THE REST OF THEM DESERVE.

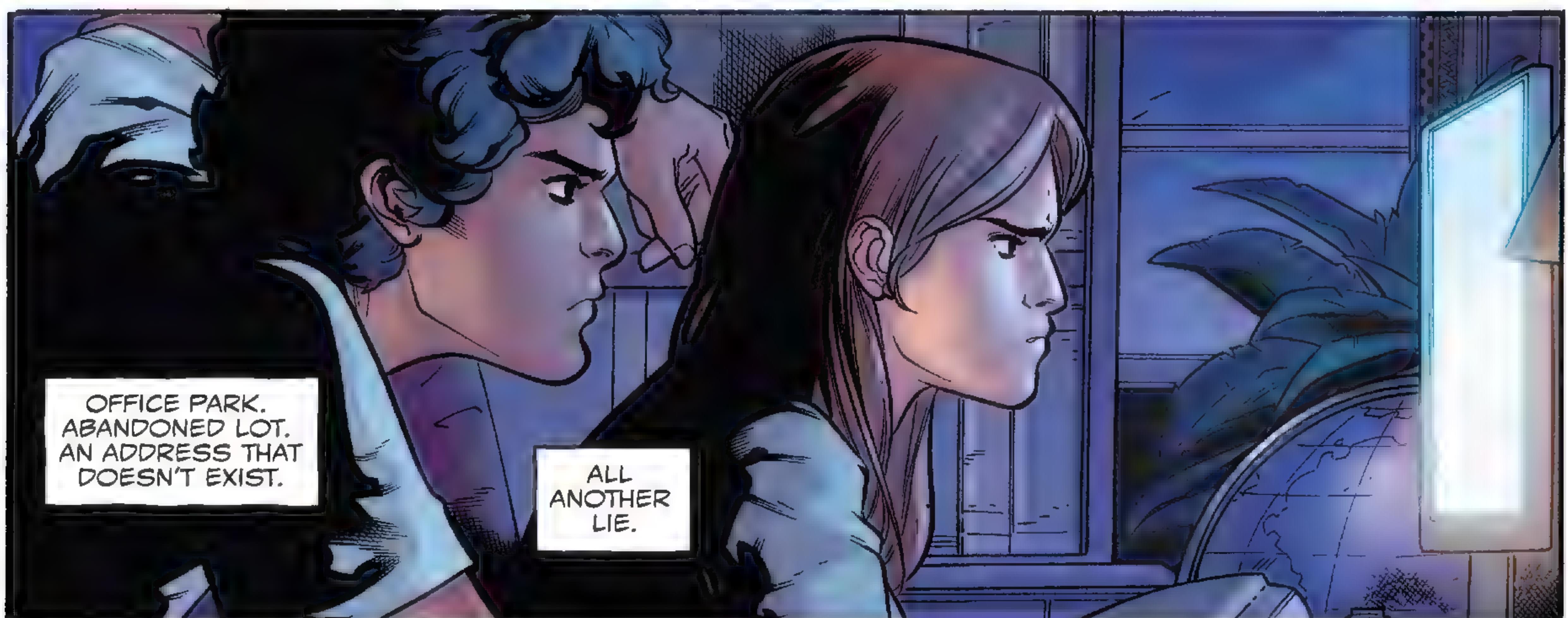
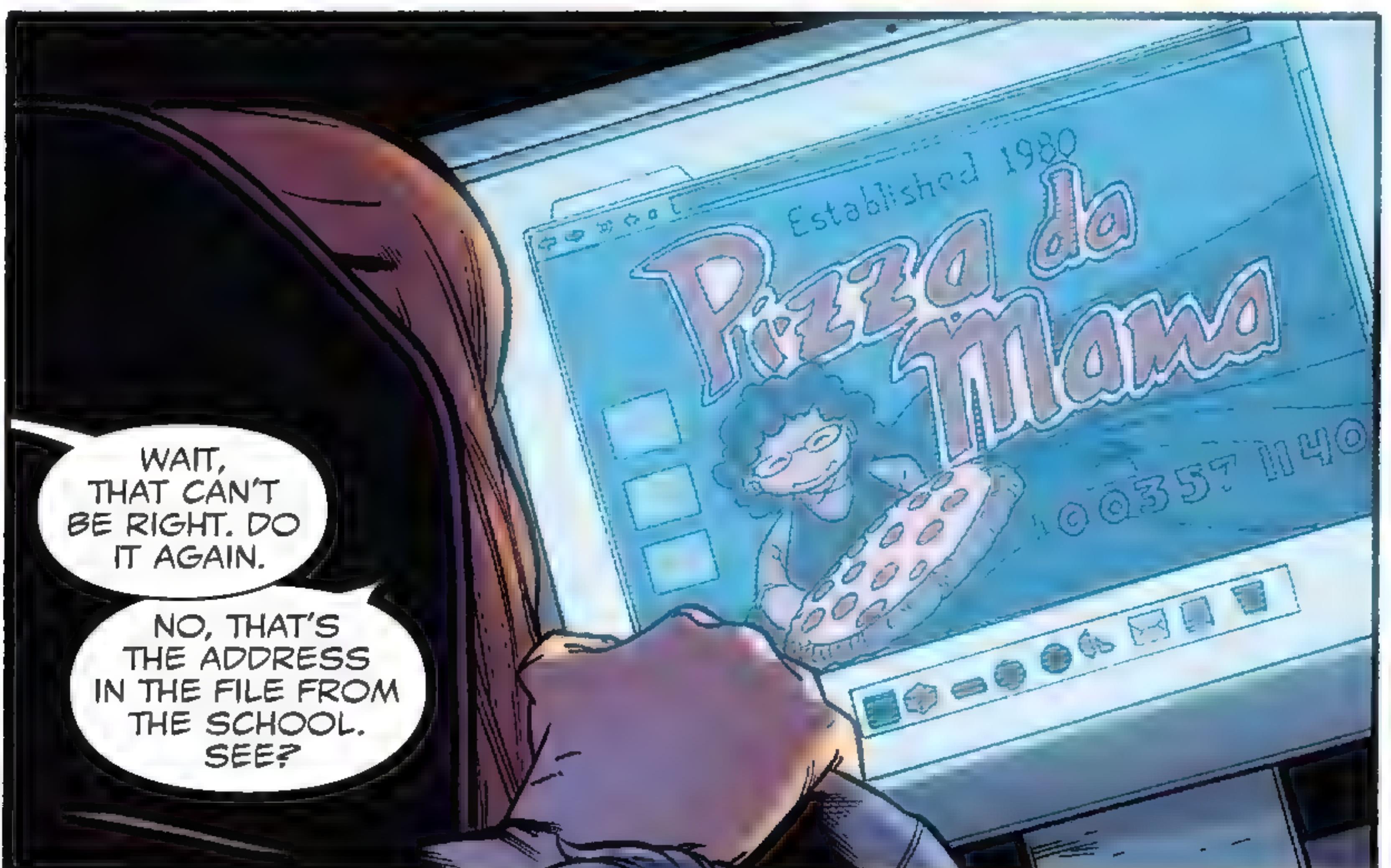
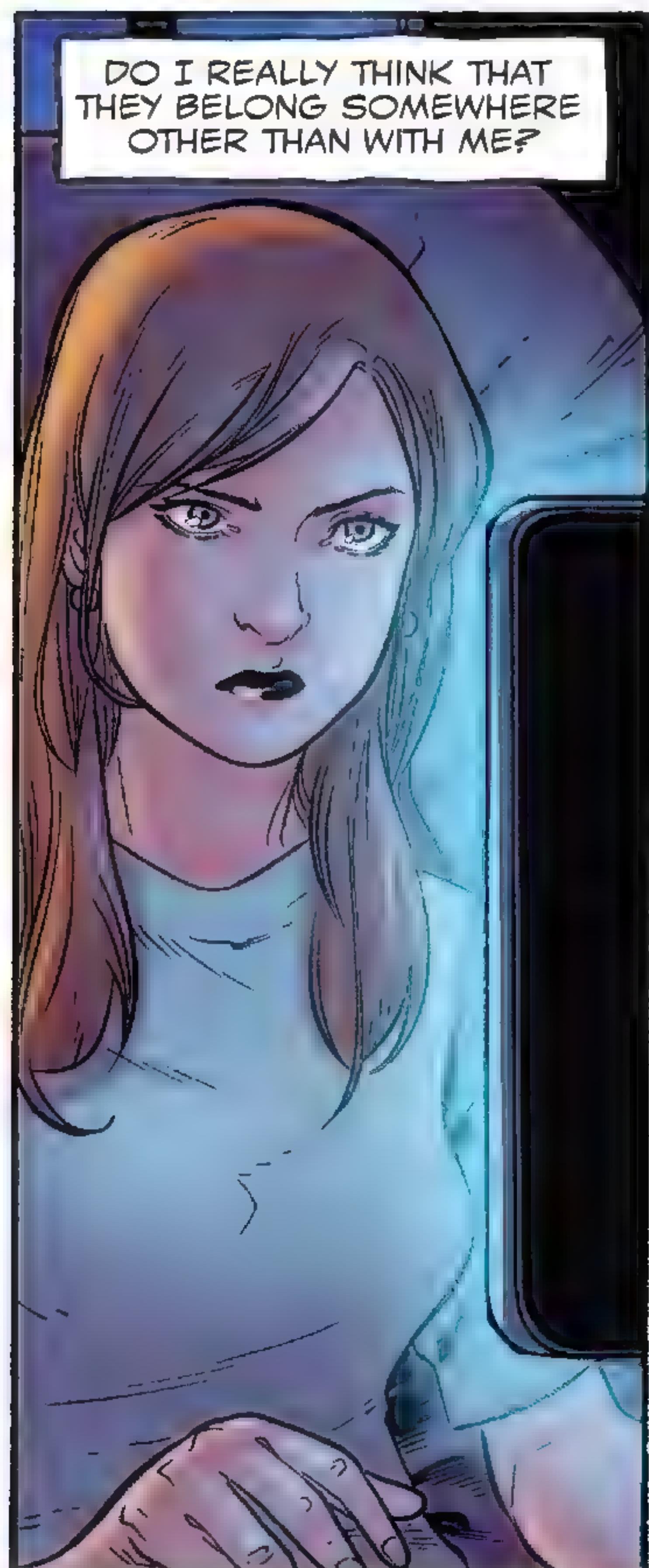
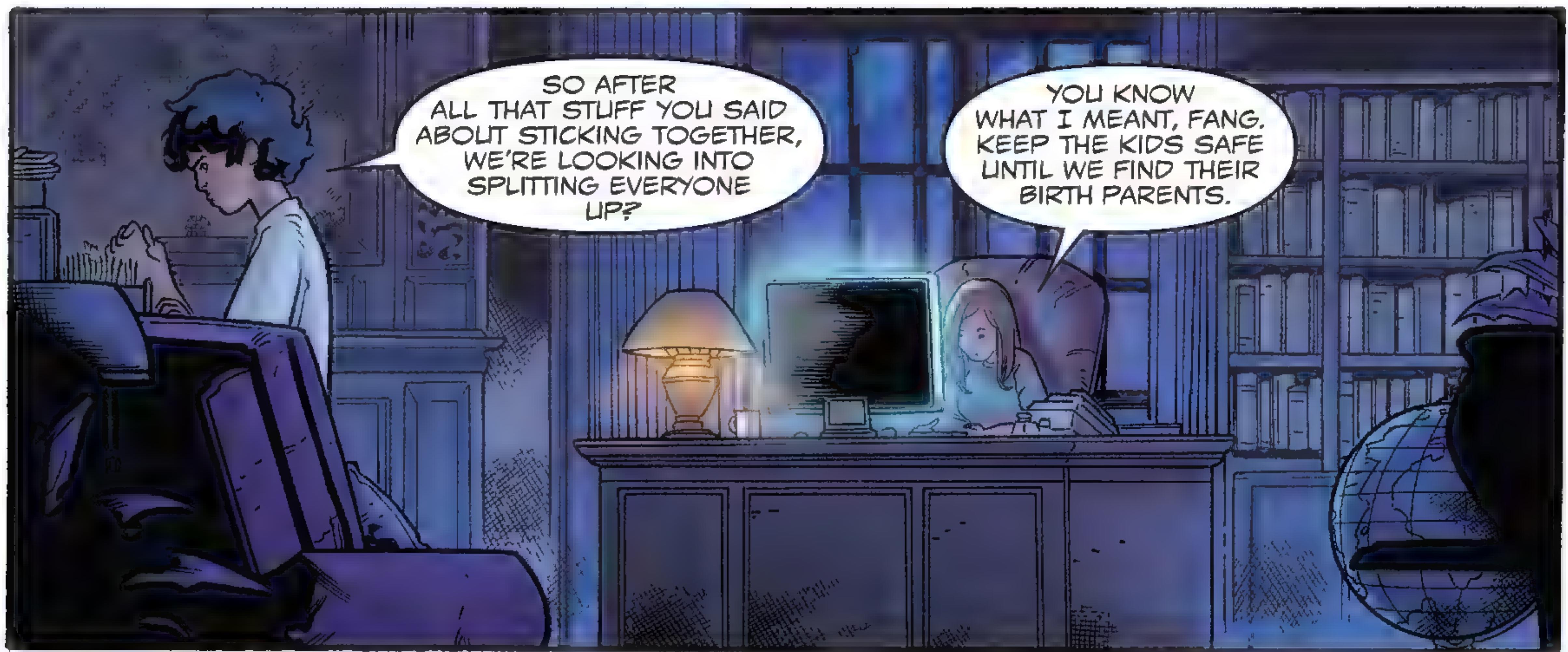


HANDY LITTLE THING,
HAVING A TELEPATH
BACKING UP YOUR
TEAM. NOT THAT
IT'S FOOLPROOF.

OR THAT SHE ISN'T
TERRIFYING AT TIMES. JUST
HAPPY SHE'S ON OUR SIDE.

MM-HM.
ISN'T IT
NICE TO BE
WANTED?





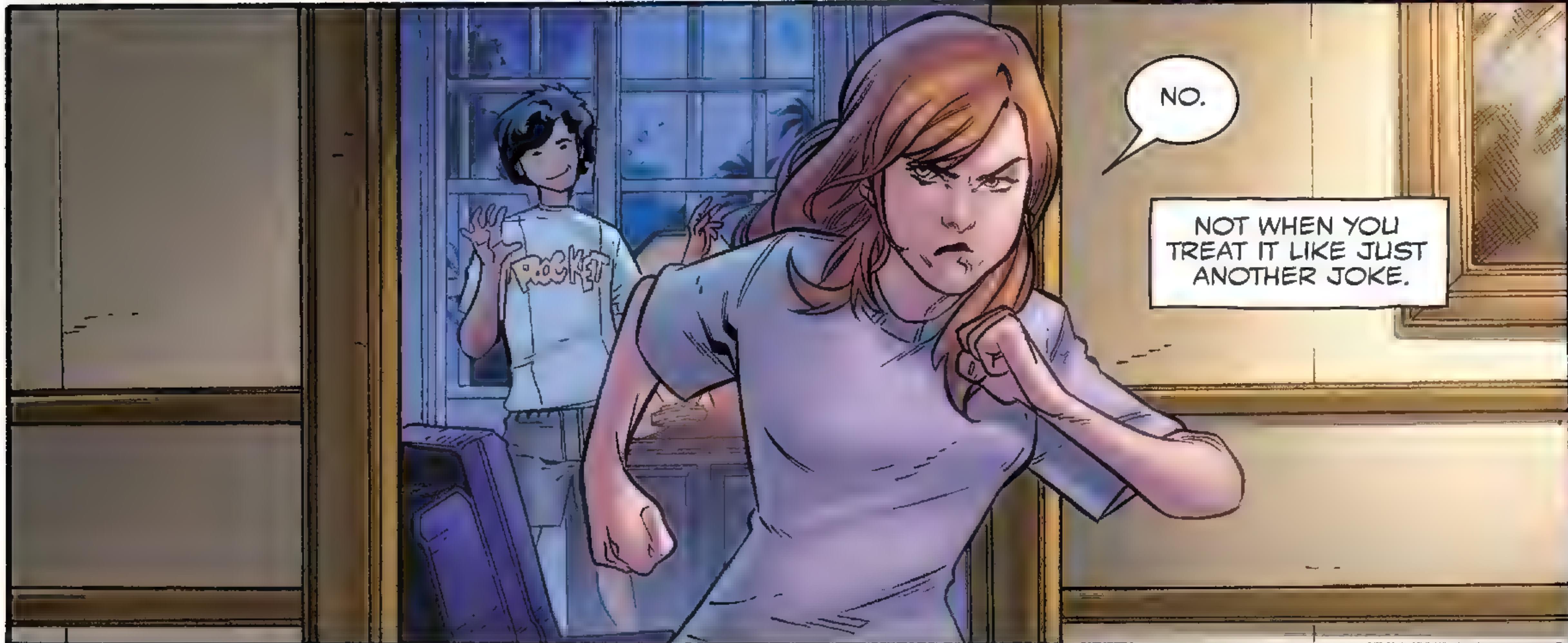
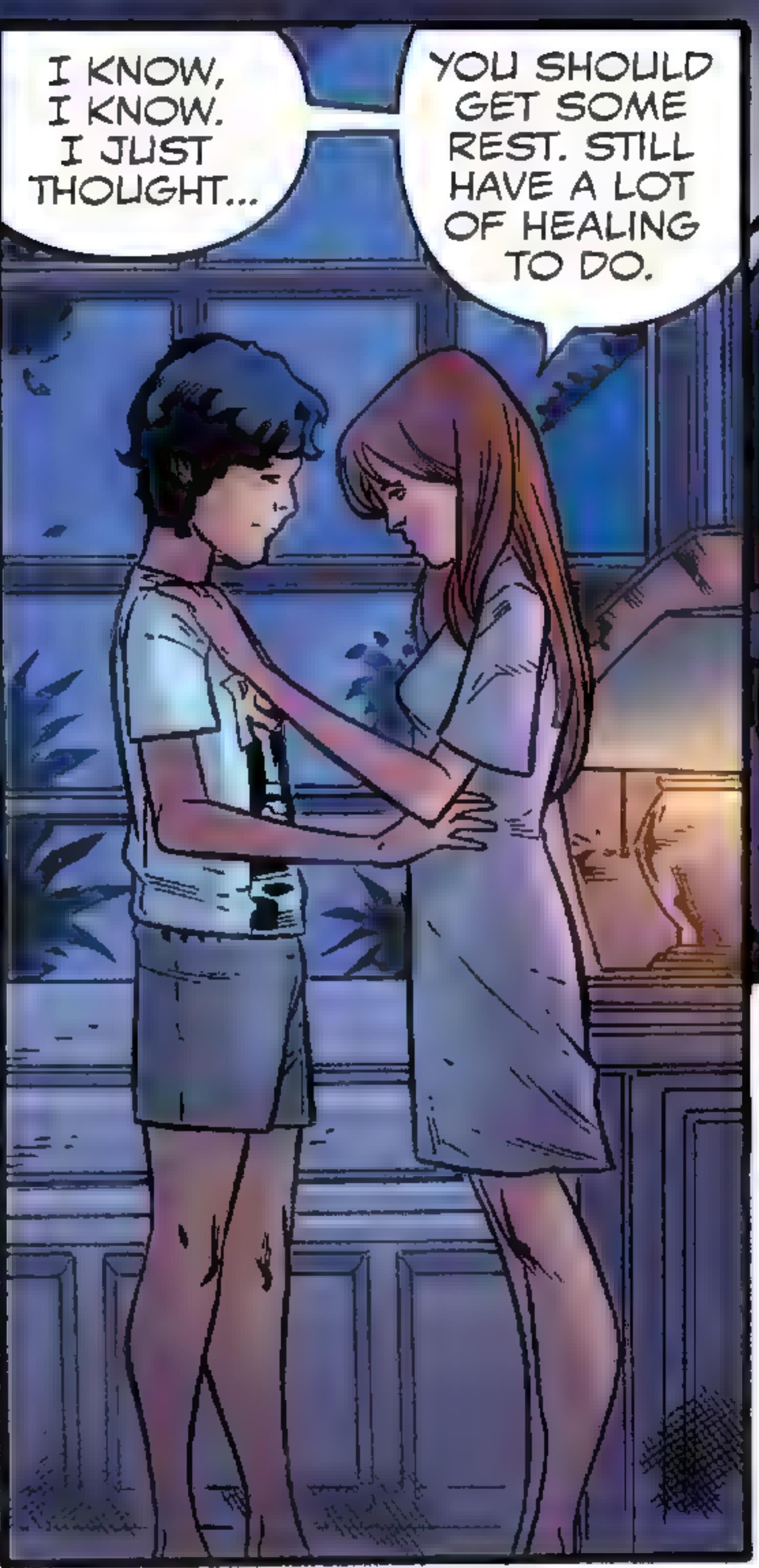
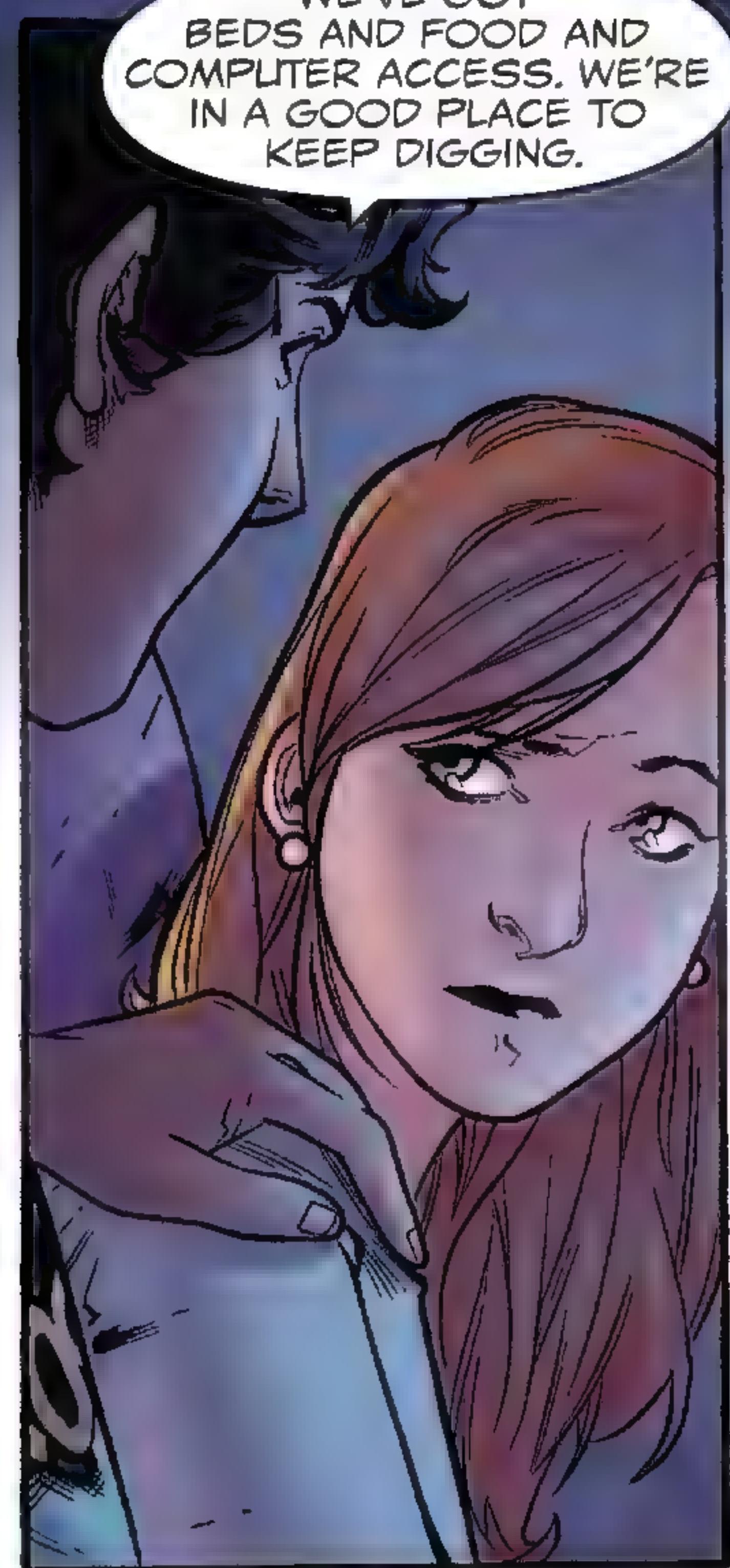


HEY, IT'S
OKAY. WE DON'T HAVE
TO FIGURE OUT OUR
WHOLE ORIGIN STORY
IN ONE NIGHT.

WE'VE GOT
BEDS AND FOOD AND
COMPUTER ACCESS. WE'RE
IN A GOOD PLACE TO
KEEP DIGGING.

I KNOW,
I KNOW.
I JUST
THOUGHT...

YOU SHOULD
GET SOME
REST. STILL
HAVE A LOT
OF HEALING
TO DO.

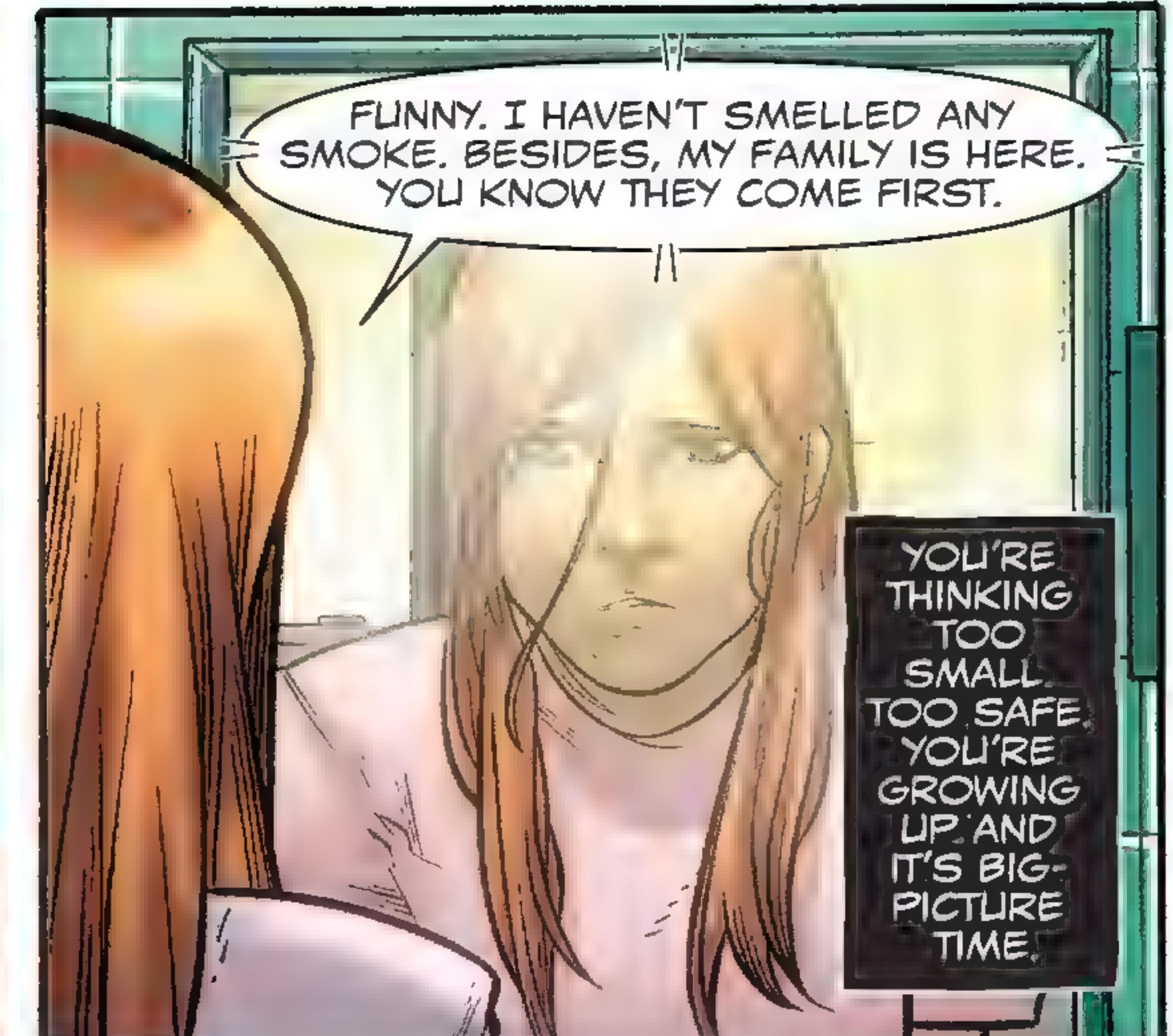
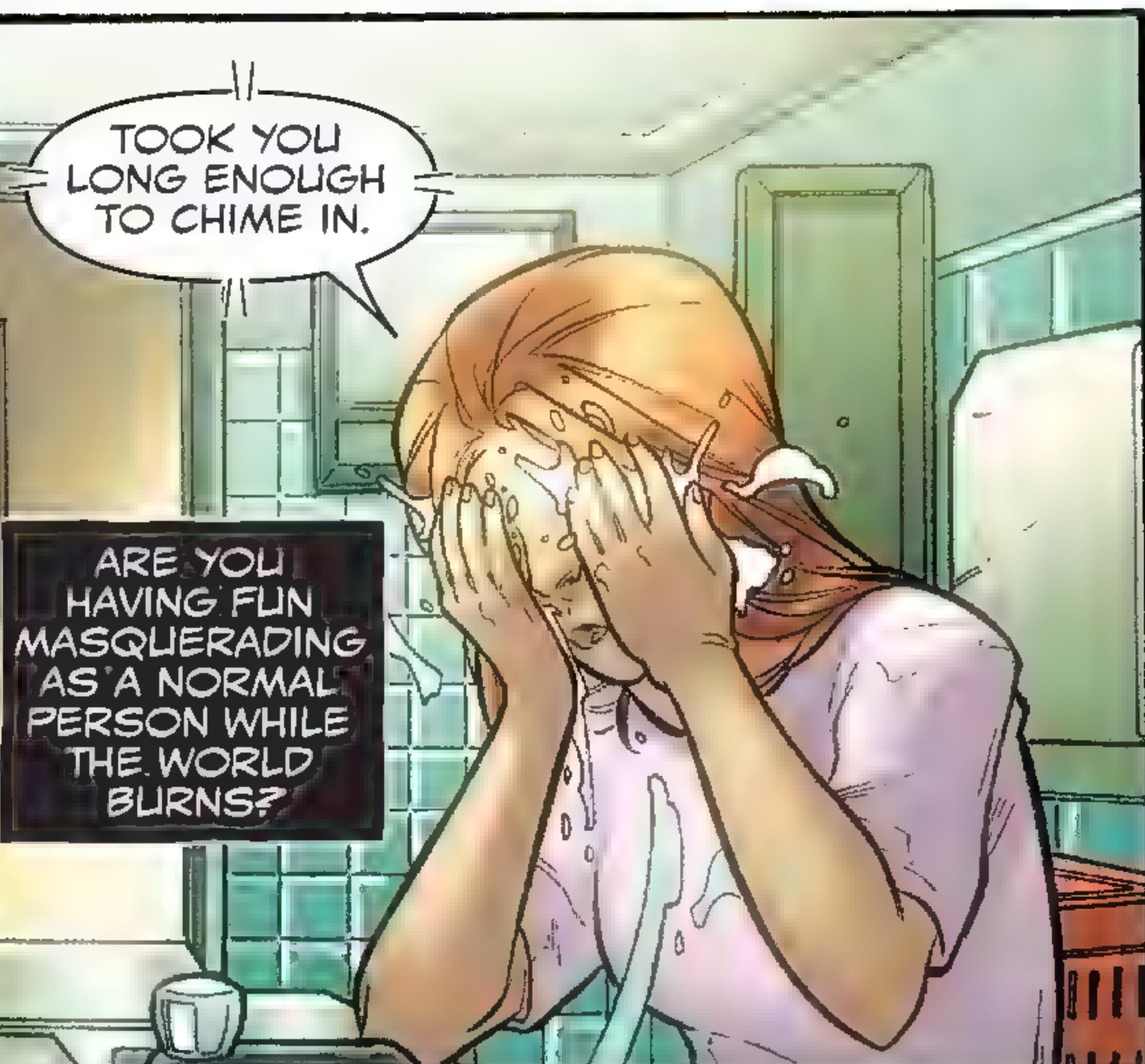


BACK IN
THE SCHOOL.
WHY ARE WE
BACK AT THE
SCHOOL?

HAVE TO GET
THEM OUT. PROTECT
THEM FROM THE TEETH
IN THE DARK. KEEP THE
MONSTERS AT BAY.

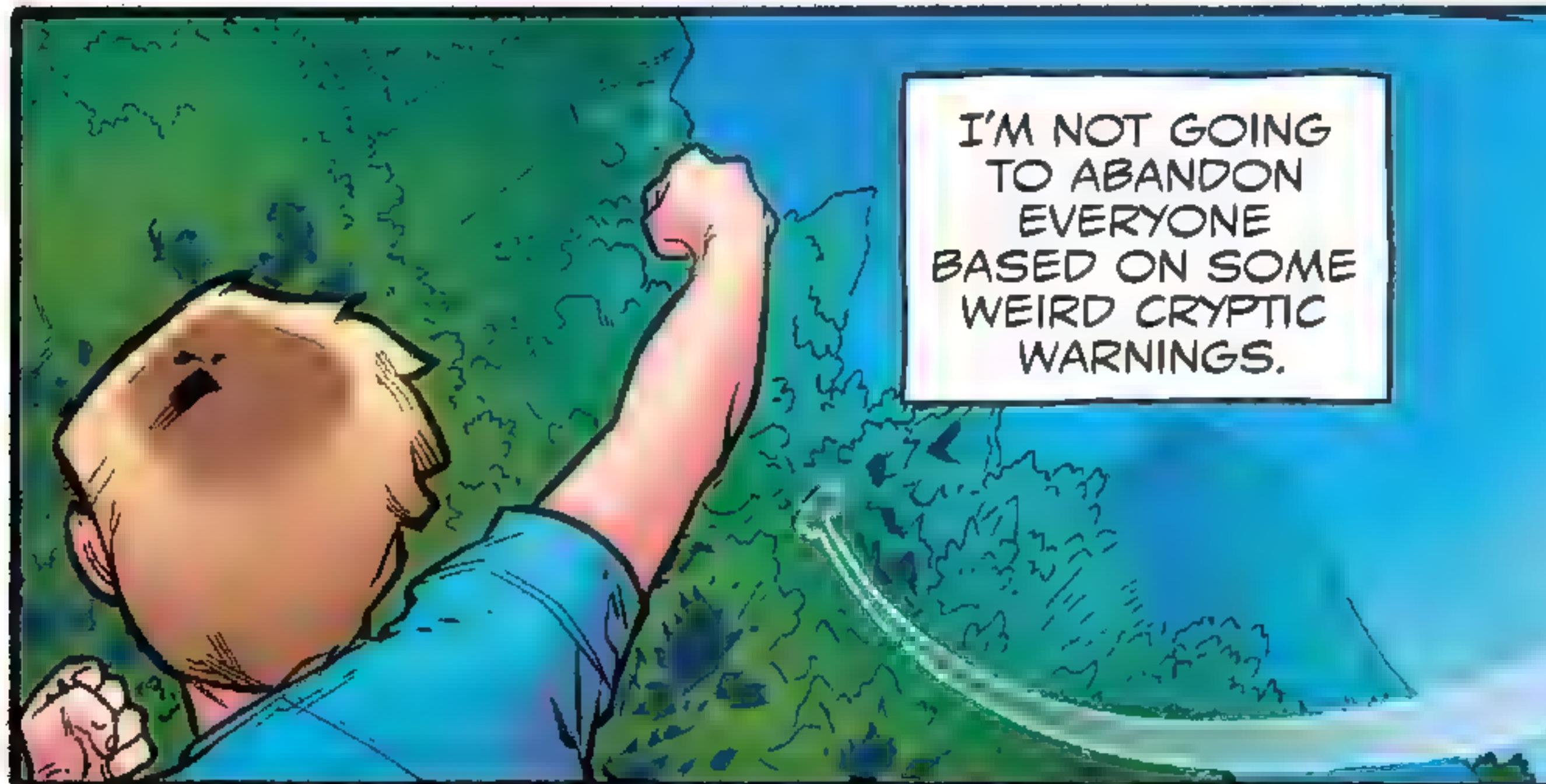
NO, THIS
ISN'T REAL.
NOT ME. I'M
NOT ONE
OF THE--

MONSTERS?

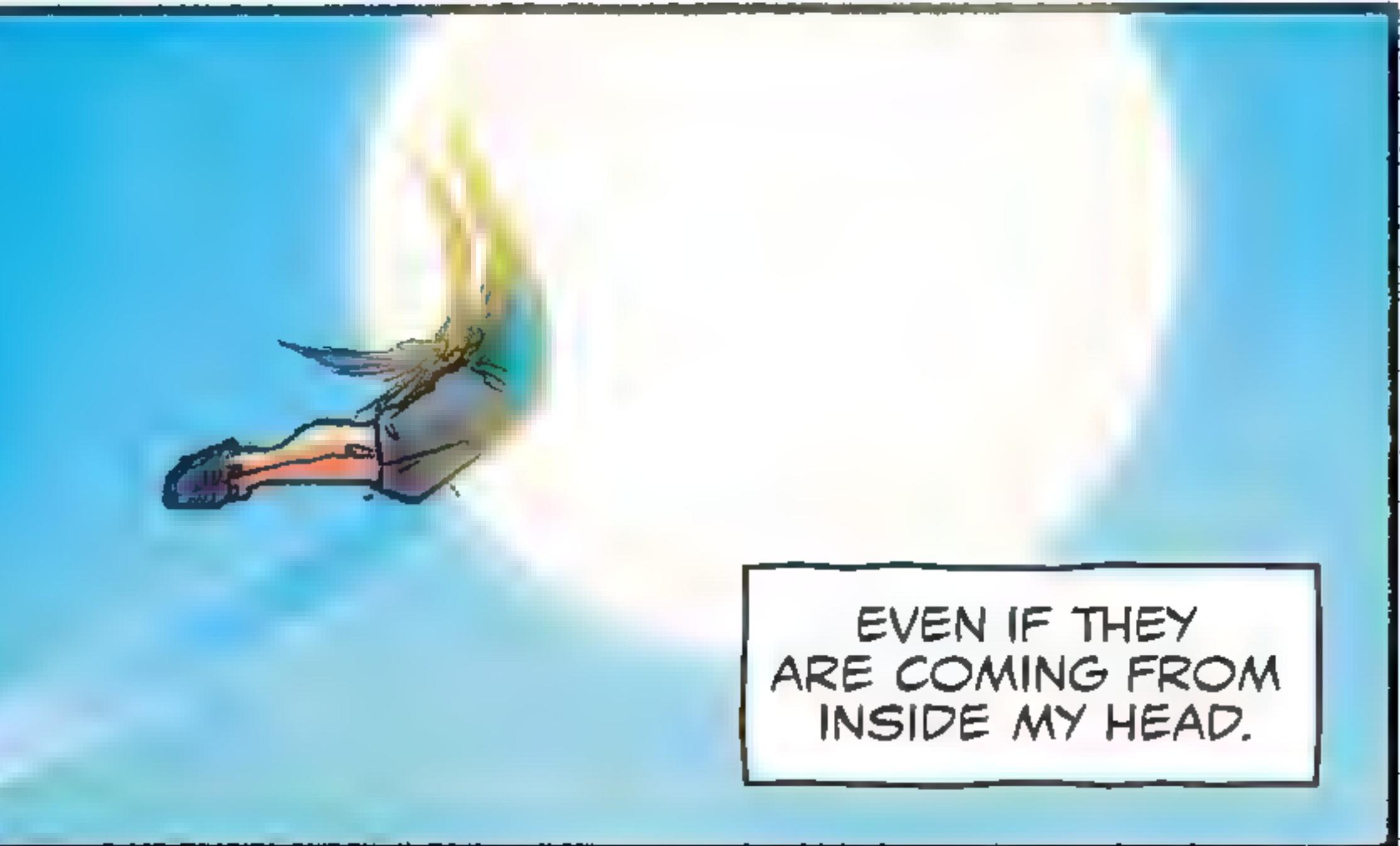




SAVE THE WORLD? SURE.
DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT
OF GUIDEBOOK FOR THAT?
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS?



I'M NOT GOING
TO ABANDON
EVERYONE
BASED ON SOME
WEIRD CRYPTIC
WARNINGS.



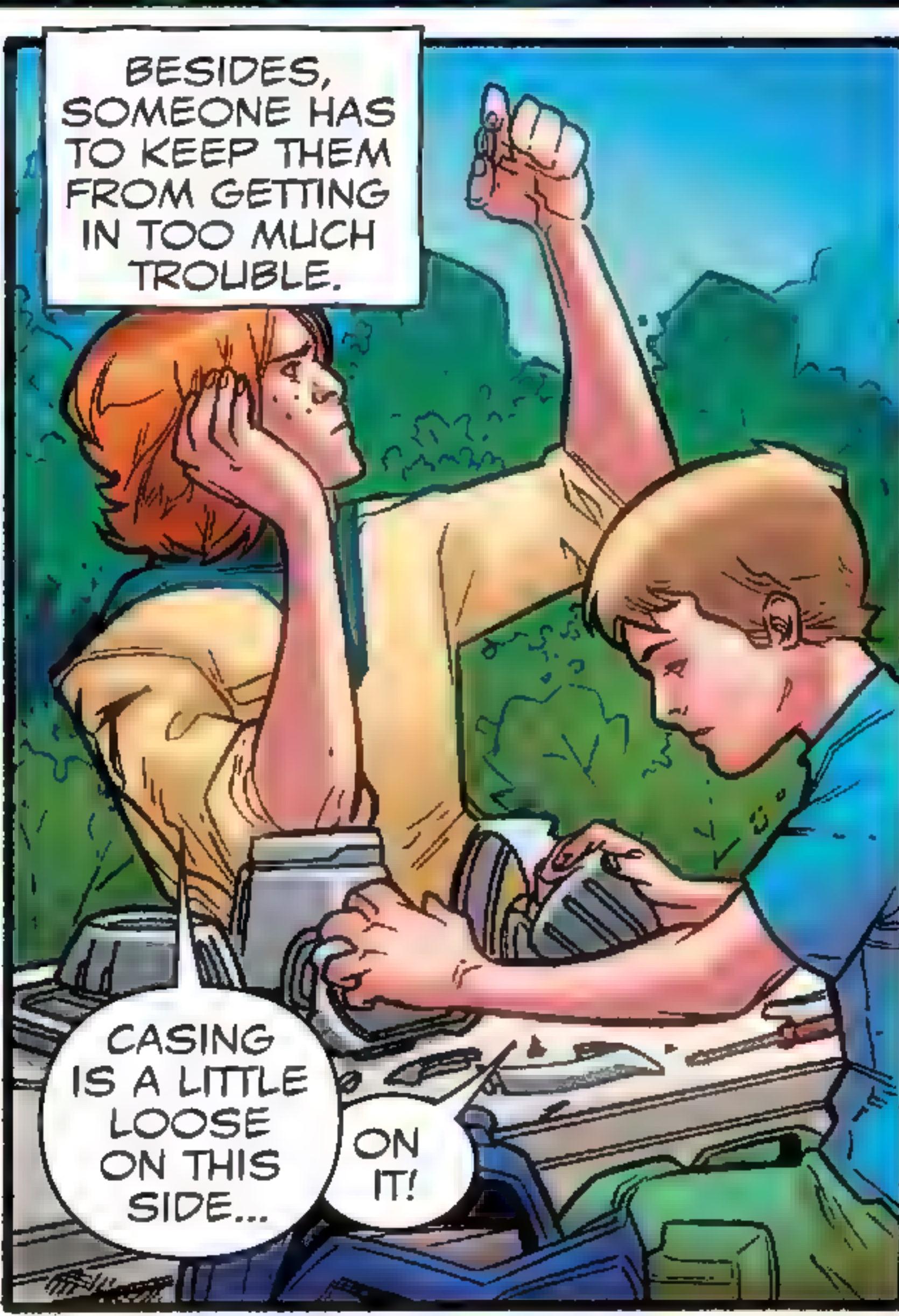
EVEN IF THEY
ARE COMING FROM
INSIDE MY HEAD.



THIS IS MY FAMILY. PROTECTING
THEM, HELPING THEM FIND WHERE
THEY COME FROM IS MY JOB.

IT SAYS YOU SHOULD
REALLY JUST GIVE UP
ON BUBBLE BOP. OR AT
LEAST STOP BUYING
MORE LIVES.

...RIGHT.



BESIDES,
SOMEONE HAS
TO KEEP THEM
FROM GETTING
IN TOO MUCH
TROUBLE.

CASING
IS A LITTLE
LOOSE
ON THIS
SIDE...

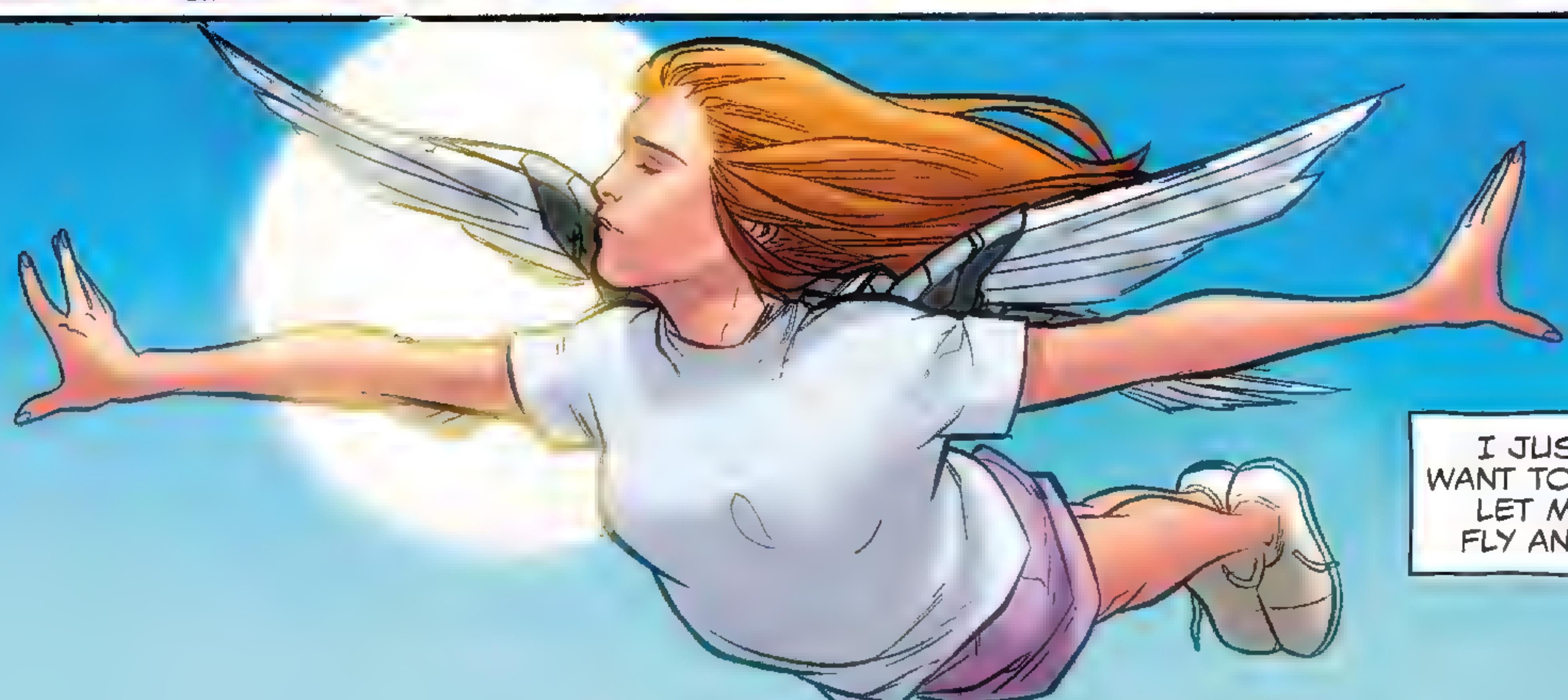
ON
IT!



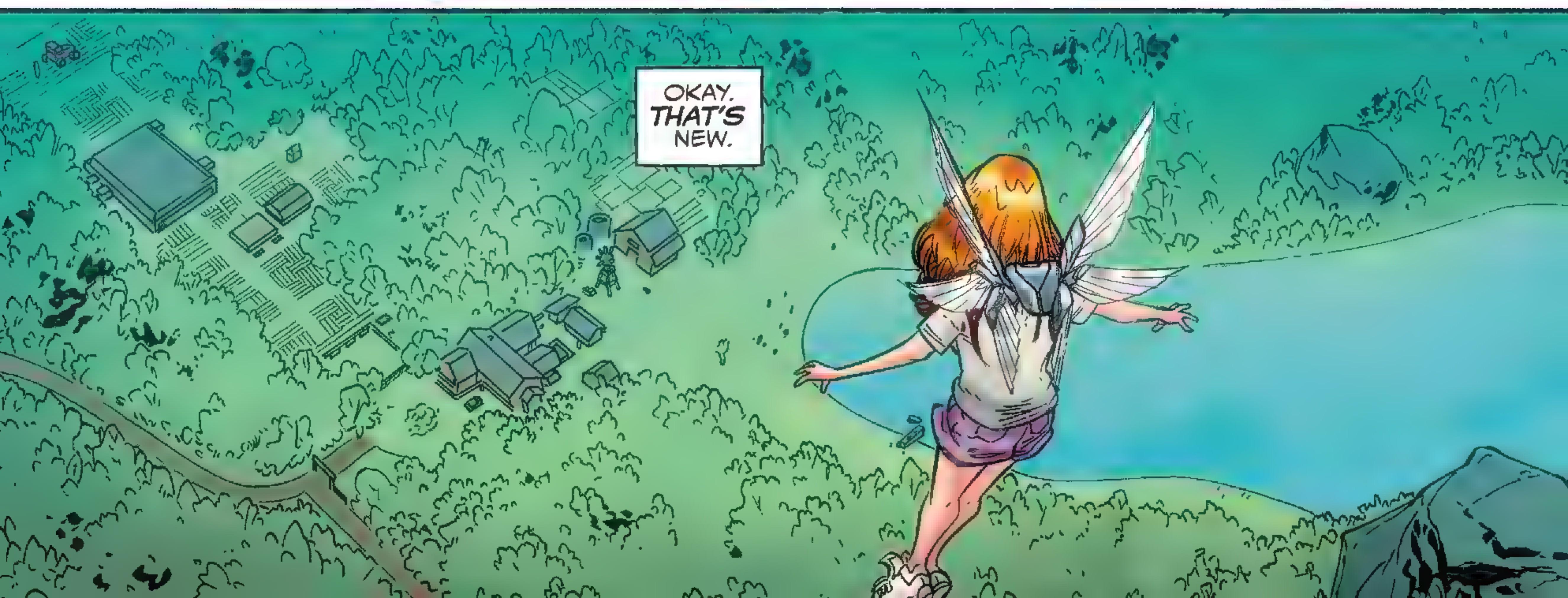
I ALREADY HAVE
A JOB TO DO. THE
WORLD CAN TAKE
CARE OF ITSELF.

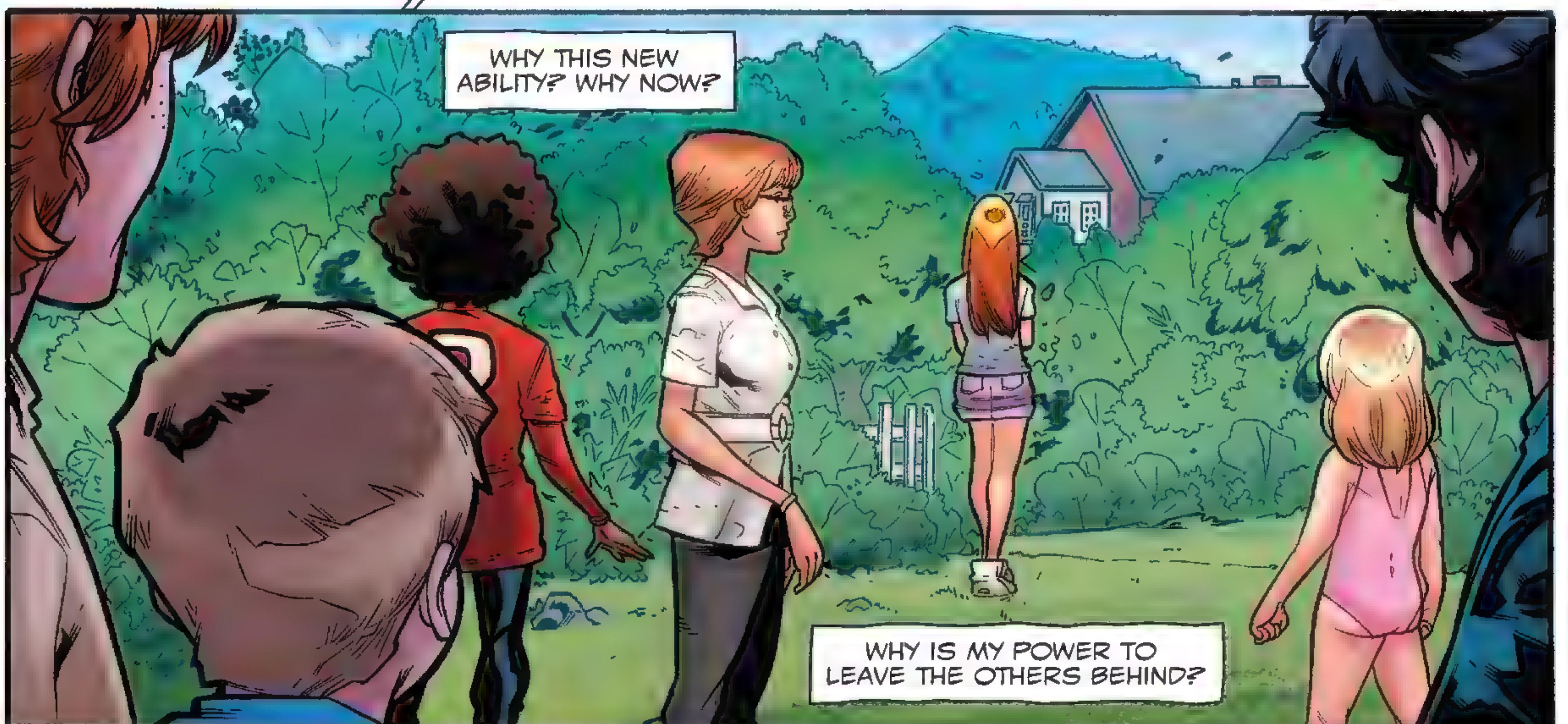
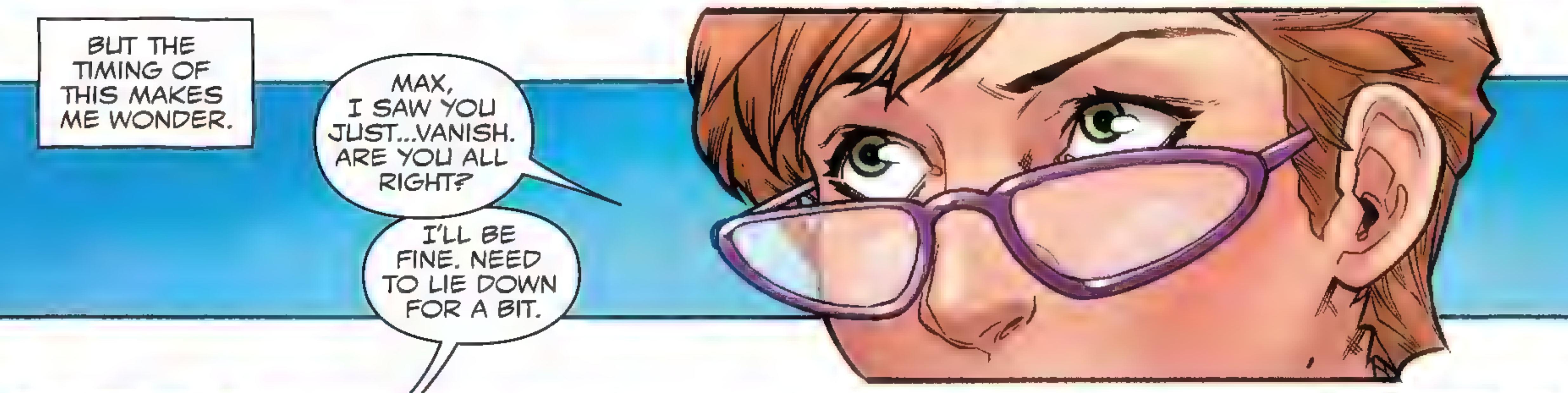
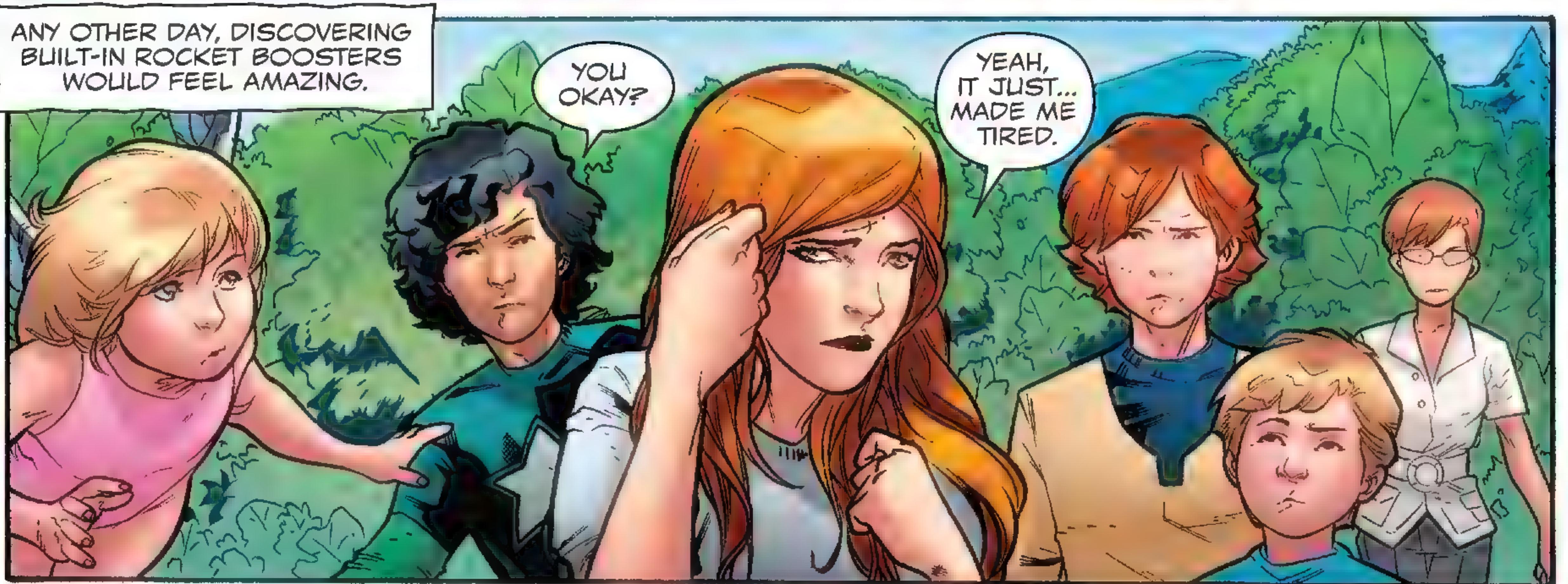
HOW
LONG WAS
THAT?!

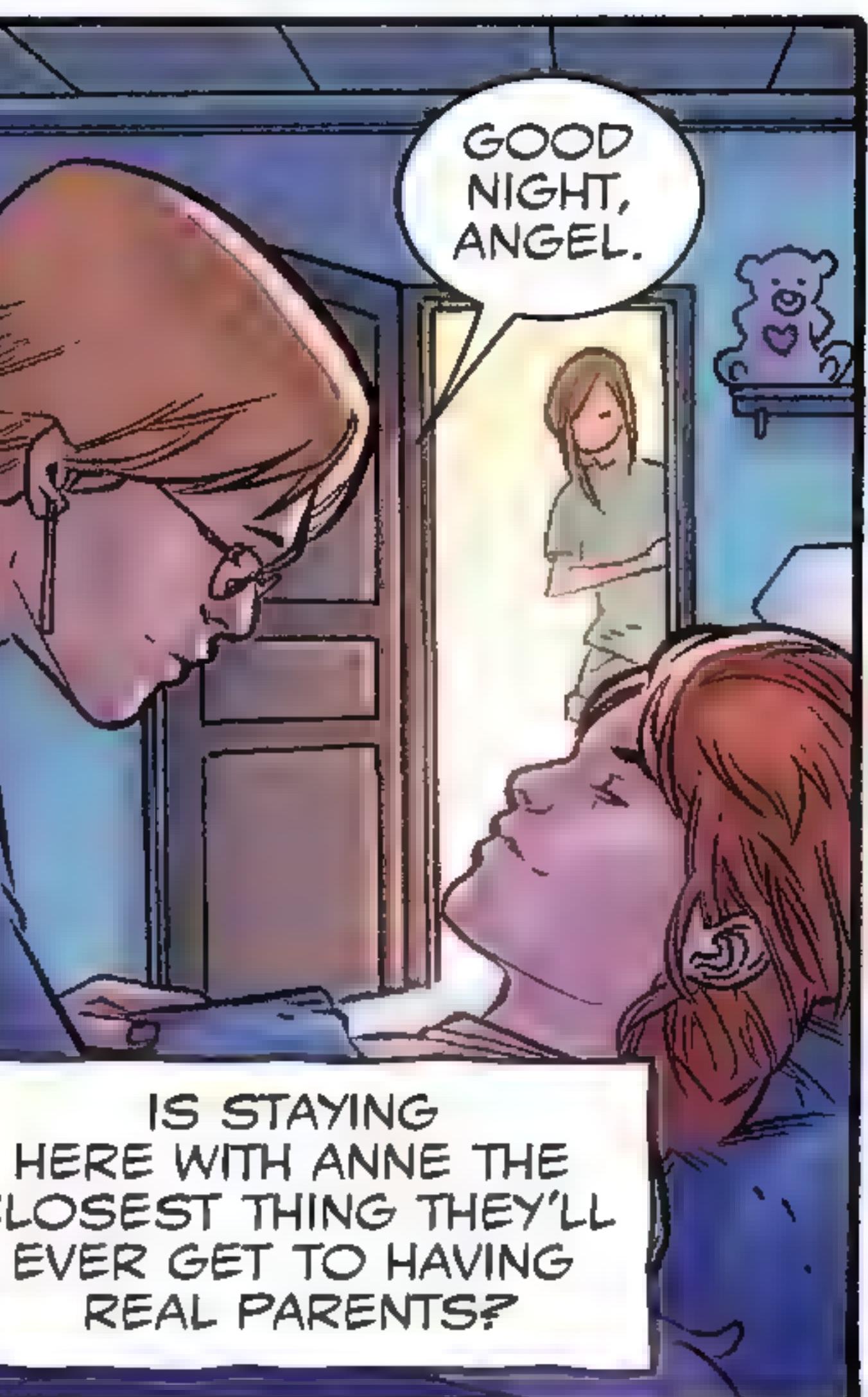
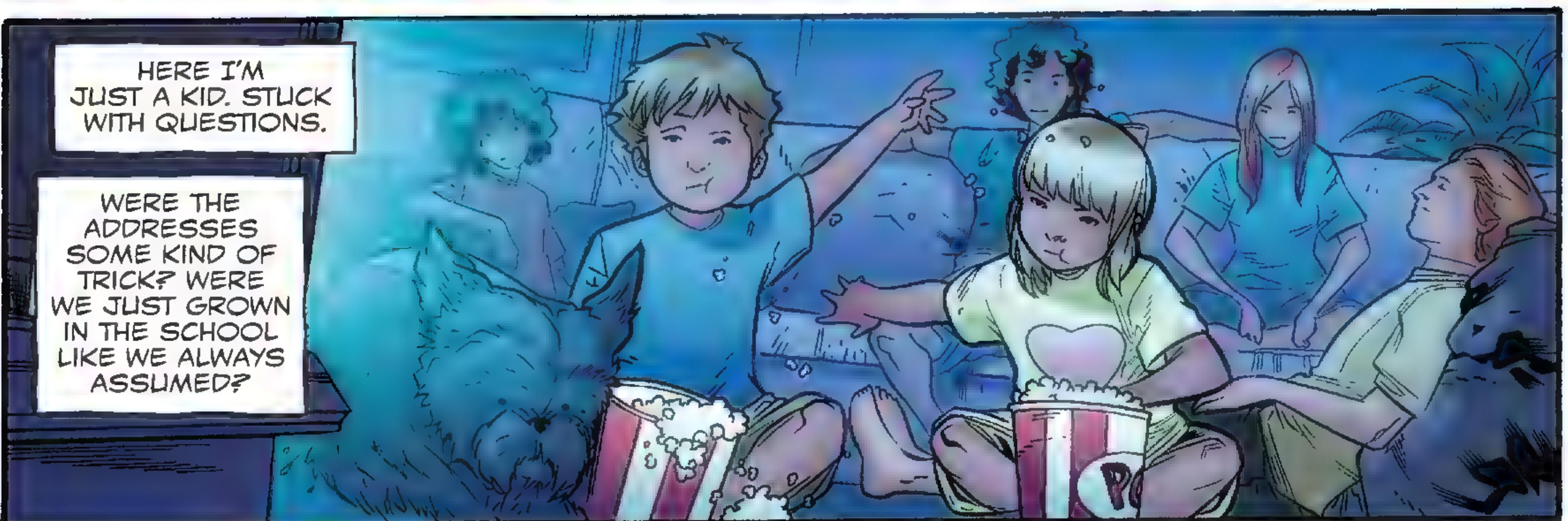
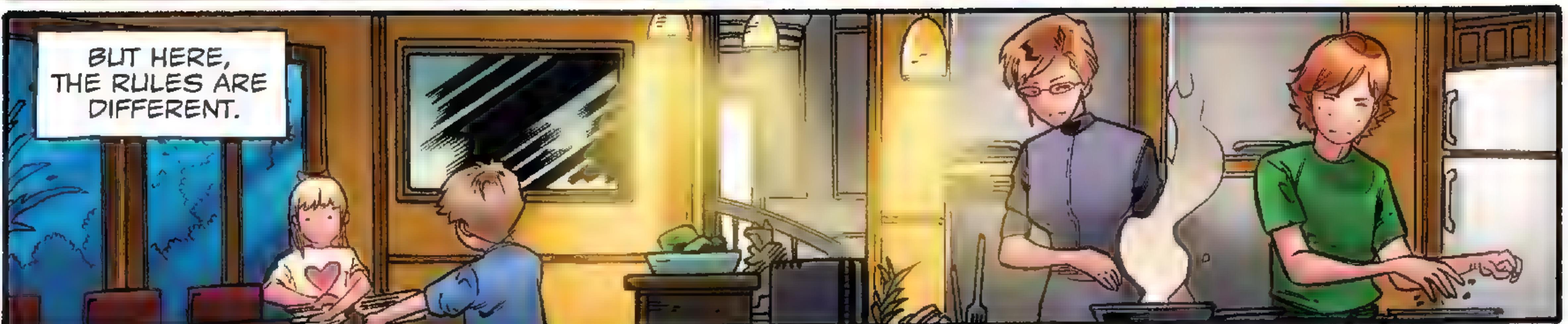
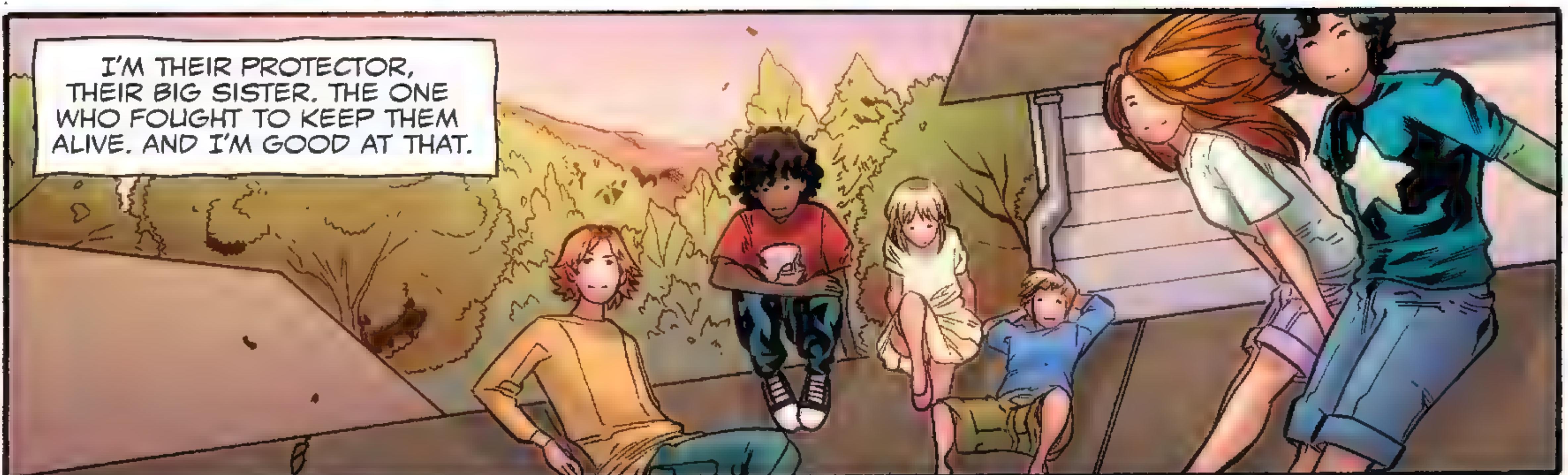
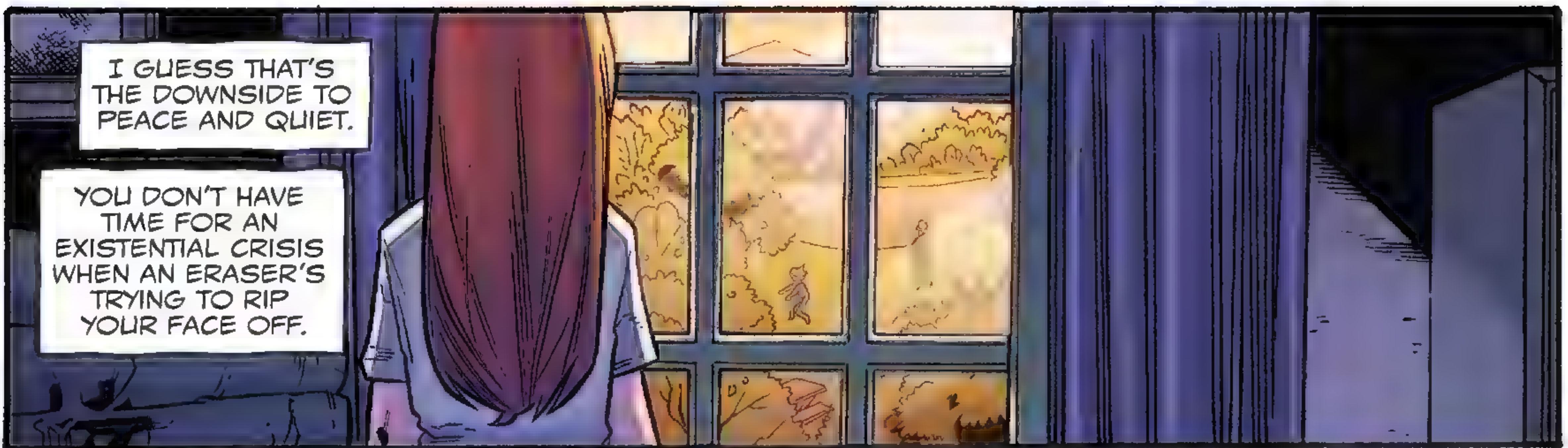
LONG
ENOUGH TO
FREAK OUT ANNE,
I THINK. MAYBE
WE SHOULD HAVE
MENTIONED
THE GILLS.

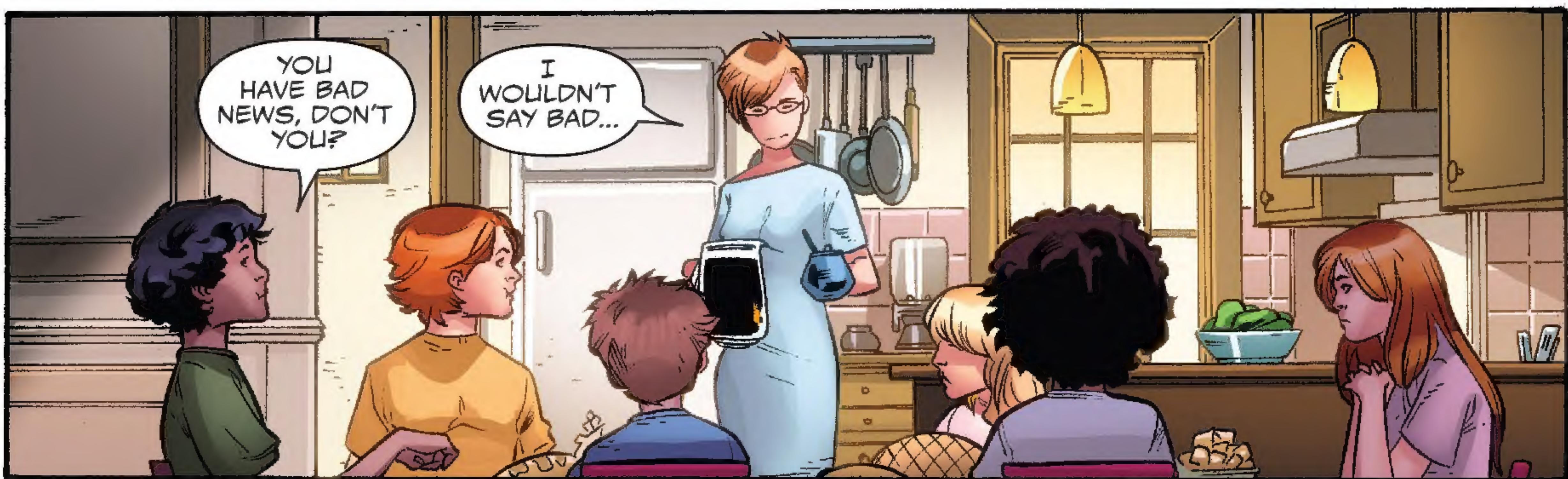


I JUST
WANT TO FLY.
LET ME
FLY AND--









"...IT'S WELL PAST
TIME THAT YOU STARTED
ATTENDING **SCHOOL**."

OUR LAST SCHOOL
IS WHERE THEY CAGED
US. EXPERIMENTED ON
US. MADE US BLEED.

LET'S HOPE
THIS SCHOOL IS
A LITTLE EASIER
TO SURVIVE...

TO BE CONTINUED...

Issue #2



